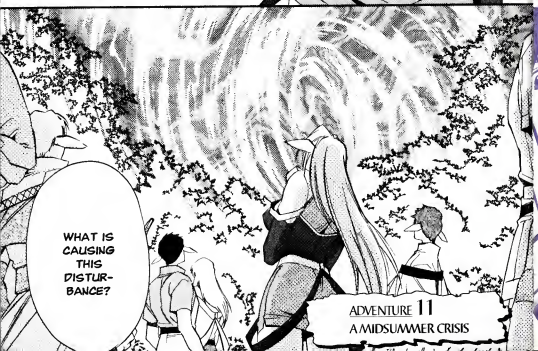
LOUIE THE
RUNE SOLDIER
VOL. 3
STORY RYOU MIZUNO
ART JUN SASAMEYUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA

LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER



LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER

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CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA
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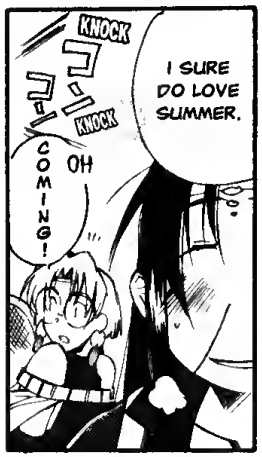
LOUIE THE RUNE SOLDIER

THE STORY SO FAR

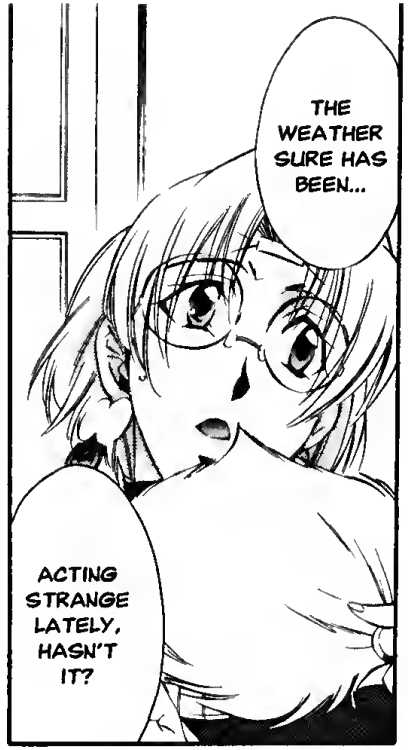
A piece of wood, a magical sword, and an adventurer's promise—throw in a couple of beautiful women and you get loud, loutish Louie's tools for disaster! Cutting a piece of wood from a sacred oak landed Louie and the gang in an elvish prison, but saving his captors from the forest's monsters landed him more than enough sacred wood for his new magic staff. When Melissa's "fiancé" challenged Louie to a duel, Louie's sword did a two-step while he laid-out the prissy knight! Louie, in a drunken stupor, promised to get revenge for a pretty, young charge; but when it turned out Genie was her target, Louie proved a point while Genie kicked his butt. And now, the adventure continues—and the women keep coming—as Louie faces his toughest challenges yet, in *Louie the Rune Soldier*!

ADVENTURE 11
A MIDSUMMER CRISIS

お ooh
mweh heh


KNOCK
KNOCK
COMING!
OH
I SURE DO LOVE SUMMER.

HUH-?! UH, YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?


THE WEATHER SURE HAS BEEN...
ACTING STRANGE LATELY, HASN'T IT?

HE WHO...
CONTROLS THE ELEMENTS...

A LETTER FOR ME?
LETTER FOR A MISS... ILA.
WHO COULD IT BE FROM?

GLARE
MAN, IT'S HOT...

AH, I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING NOTHING.
AND IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER.

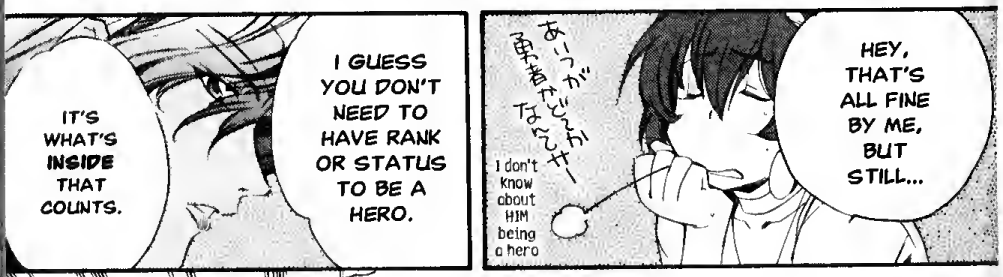
GRAB
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT REALLY IS HOT OUT...
OH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT IN RETURN FOR THE ITEM.
SO GET MOVING!
MOVIN'
MOVIN'
FWP
FWP
EVEN THOUGH THE RAIN YESTERDAY WAS AS COLD AS ICE!

I AM SO INCREDIBLY UNSURE ABOUT THIS, BUT I THINK I'VE DECIDED TO...
ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGE HIM...AS A HERO.
HIM

UM... WELL, IT'S...
AND...
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK MAKES HIM A HERO?
VWEEE
VWEEE
VWEEE

WHAT IS IT?
HM?

IT'S SO...
HOT!!
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS WEATHER?!
NO KIDDING...
I KNOW THIS IS A LITTLE SUDDEN, BUT...
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.


IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS.
I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE RANK OR STATUS TO BE A HERO.
I don't know about HIM being a hero
HEY, THAT'S ALL FINE BY ME, BUT STILL...

I CAN'T BE SERVANT TO A HERO NOBODY RECOG-NIZES!
THERE'S MY POSITION TO CONSIDER TOO, YOU KNOW!
NO. NO. NO!!
I THINK RANK AND STATUS ARE IMPORTANT, TOO!
AND I THINK THAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH LOUIE.

HE'S GOT THE BRAWN OF AN OGRE...
I MADE A MISTAKE...
TEE-HEE
AND HE CAN USE A TINY BIT OF MAGIC, SO HE'S GOT AT LEAST SOME BRAINS...
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU BASTARD!
AND I GUESS HE'S POPULAR WITH THE LADIES AT ALL THOSE BARS HE HANGS AROUND AT...

Obsessed With Fighting

THEREFORE, LOUIE MUST OVERCOME A CERTAIN ORDEAL...
SO THAT HE WILL EARN THE PRAISE OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE!!
AN ORDEAL?
YOU MEAN, LIKE KING RIJARL'S BATTLE WITH THE DRAGON?
A DRAGON...!!
ドラゴン...!!
OOH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA...
Oh, my...
はぁ...
GIMME A BREAK, MELISSA.
AN ORDEAL LIKE THAT ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST GO LOOKING FOR.
STUFF LIKE THAT COMES LOOKING FOR YOU.
I GUESS I DID GET A LITTLE WORKED UP...
YEAH...
AHH...
I WONDER IF THERE ARE STILL DRAGONS SOMEWHERE... ♡
UM, GOOD AFTERNOON...
人のハナシ聞けっ
Listen to us, damn it.
HM?
AH-!!
HUH?
HI, EVERYONE.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

WHAT?!
I WAS HOPING ...
THAT I COULD JOIN YOUR GROUP!
I CAN USE WHITE MAGIC.
AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE USEFUL!
CUT THE CRAP, HONEY!
NOT ONLY DID YOU DECEIVE US...
BUT YOUR PEOPLE TRIED TO KILL US.

YOU'RE THAT ELF...
FROM THE FOREST OF TARTIOUS!!
YES, MY NAME IS CELE-CIA.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU REMEM-BERED ME.
HOW COULD WE FORGET?! WE ALMOST GOT KILLED, THANKS TO YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR US?
YEAH, WHAT THE HECK DO YOU WANT?!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?
YOU SONOFA-!

ELVES SURE DO HAVE LOUSY TASTE...
OUR "HERO" ?!
集合
CONFERENCE!
gasp
FREAKIN' OUT
おぇる
UM... YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM THAT YET, HAVE YOU?
NO. I THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL ALL OF YOU FIRST.
SHIVER
that was close
PHEW. I WAS AFRAID SHE ALREADY TOLD HIM THAT LITTLE STORY.
BECAUSE HE WOULD'VE AGREED WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

I UNDER-STAND WHY YOU'RE UPSET, BUT I'M BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE LET ME JOIN YOUR GROUP!
WHAT EXACTLY ...
IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
No kidding.
She seems pretty insistent, huh?
.....
I HAVE ...
A CERTAIN INTEREST IN YOUR HERO, LOUIE.
HE DEFEATED ALL OF THOSE BEASTS WITH HIS BARE HANDS.

GRIN
JUMP
IN THAT CASE...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAIT HERE FOR A WHILE?
CELE-CIA, DEAR ...
HO HO HO
OKAY.
UM...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
sigh...
RUSTLE

THAT ELF REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE A THING FOR LOUIE.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE DOES FIND OUT!
BUT YOU KNOW ...
I HAVE A PLAN.
GEESH, LETTING HER INTO OUR PARTY? WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!!
WHAT?
WE'LL JUST GET TO HIM FIRST, AND FORCE HIM TO ...
TELL THE ELF TO MAKE LIKE A TREE.
I GOTCHA!!

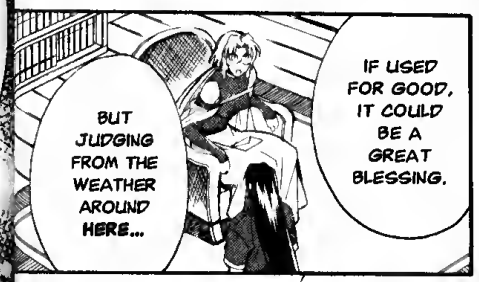
THERE'S A CERTAIN MAGICAL DEVICE HE'S TRYING TO RECONSTRUCT.
A WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE.
BASED ON WHAT HE'S WRITTEN HERE, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALMOST FINISHED.
THAT'S UNUSUALLY ASTUTE FOR YOU.
YES, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
SO DO YOU THINK ALL THIS WEIRD WEATHER WE'VE BEEN HAVING IS 'CUZ OF THAT THING?
HM? ?
WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE?

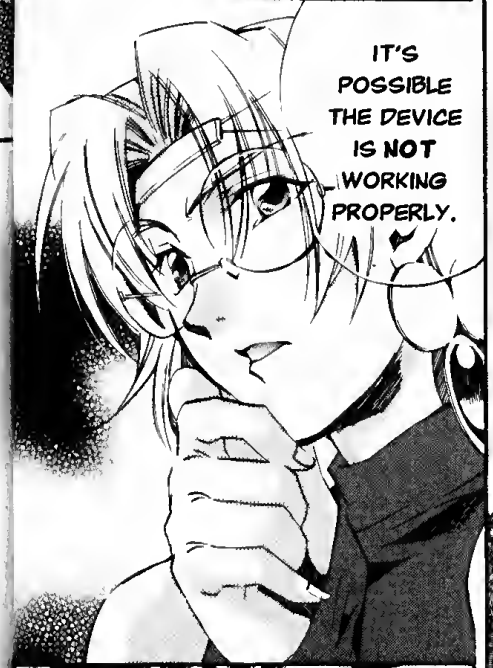
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YA?
NO...
IT MIGHT ALREADY BE HAPPENING.
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
YEAH, SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE MAGIC WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
THERE IS AN OLD MONK, NAMED BANARL...
THIS BANARL HAS A TOWER IN A REMOTE AREA OF THE KINGDOM, WHERE HE'S NOW IMMERSED IN HIS STUDIES OF MAGIC. MY FATHER SPONSORS HIS RESEARCH.
RESEARCH OF MAGIC?

IF THE DEVICE ISN'T TURNED OFF, AND THE WEATHER STAYS LIKE THIS...
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST...
ALL MANNER OF NATURAL DISASTERS MIGHT BEFALL US.

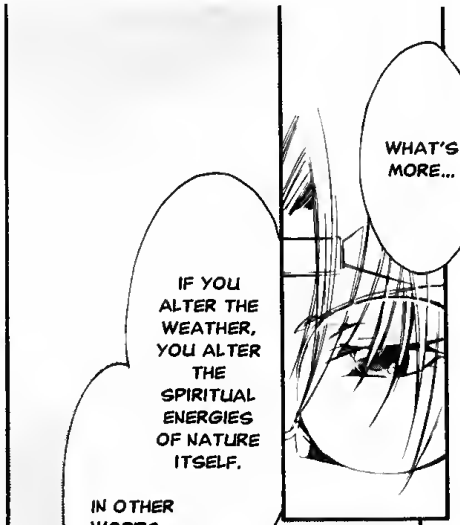
WHY, IF I HAD SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YOU SONOFA-BITCH!!
WHAT THE HELL YA THINK YER DOIN', BANARL?!
A NICE THING LIKE THAT, AND YOU AIN'T EVEN USIN' IT RIGHT!!
NICE THING?

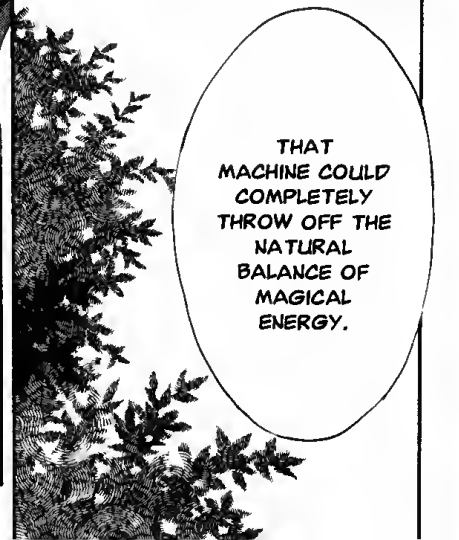

IF USED FOR GOOD, IT COULD BE A GREAT BLESSING.
BUT JUDGING FROM THE WEATHER AROUND HERE...


IT'S POSSIBLE THE DEVICE IS NOT WORKING PROPERLY.

WHAT'S THAT NOW?
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY...


WHAT'S MORE...

IF YOU ALTER THE WEATHER, YOU ALTER THE SPIRITUAL ENERGIES OF NATURE ITSELF.
IN OTHER WORDS...


THAT MACHINE COULD COMPLETELY THROW OFF THE NATURAL BALANCE OF MAGICAL ENERGY.

It'd be summer ALL THE TIME.
I'd make it so there'd be hot chicks wearing next to NOTHING all over the damn place!!!
A JOKE! I WAS JOKING!!
FWISH
IT SEEMS TO ME YOU SEEK DEATH BY THE EVIL EYE.
WELL, I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
OKAY, SO WHERE IS THIS DEVICE?
HEH
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
CHUCKLE
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO ASK...
LOUIE... THE RUNE SOLDIER.
IN THE NAME OF ADVEN-TURERS EVERY-WHERE...
I'M GONNA STOP THAT MACHINE!!

THIS SHOULD DO JUST FINE.
TUG
But... why?
なぜ
HUH...?
OH... OKAY.
FOR NOW, LET'S JUST GO TELL THE OTHERS.
YOU JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE PLACE, ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
WELL, WHADDYA KNOW— YOU'RE ALL HERE.

YEEAH! THIS IS MY FIRST ADVEN-TURE IN A LONG TIME!
I CAN'T WAIT!!
I THINK THIS COULD END UP BEING TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK.
YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT?
HUH? HOLD ON A SEC.
THAT MAGICAL DEVICE, OR WHAT-EVER...
IT WORKS OFF SPIRITUAL ENERGY, RIGHT?
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN,
I THINK I GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM.

I'M IN NEED OF A SHAMAN!
RIGHT NOW, I...
CELECIA, LISTEN!!
HEY, LOUIE, THERE'S SOME-THING I-!
AHHH
SHUT THE HELL UP. JUST PISS OFF!!
SO DO YOU THINK...
YOU'D BE WILLING TO HOOK UP WITH US?!
HUH?
OH, MY...

LOUIE!!
CELECIA!
OOH YEAH!!
WHOOOOA
WHY, THIS HAS GOT TO BE FATE!
DEFINITELY DIVINE GUIDANCE!!

ADVENTURE 12
THE ROAD TO ORDEAL
SO... THIS THING THAT CAN CONTROL THE WEATHER NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.
A MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE?
AND, IF IT'S NOT, YOU'RE SAYING THE KINGDOM MAY FACE UNPRECEDENTED NATURAL DISASTERS?
I'M GOING TO TURN THAT DEVICE OFF.
BUT I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.
THAT'S THE STORY, THEN.
行くぜぇー
Let's go!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MELISSA?

YES!!
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO!!
YEARGH!
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH YOU GUYS?!
YOU'RE THE LOWEST OF THE LOW!!
YOU FRICKIN IDIOT!!

ADVENTURE 12
THE ROAD TO ORDEAL

LOUIE!
LOUIE!
ウィー様ー
BANZAI!!
HO
HO
HO
HO
HAVING AN ELF IN OUR GROUP ...
IS JUST PART OF THE ORDEAL MYLEE HAS BESTOWED UPON US!!
IF LOUIE OVERCOMES THIS TRIAL, THEN HE WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS A HERO BY ALL!
AND I WILL BE THE FOL-LOWER OF A TRUE HERO!!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS.
SIGH
試練のために!!
FOR THE ORDEAL!
OKAY! YES, LET'S DO IT!!
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!!

WHOA, MELISSA. HOLD ON A SECOND!
SHE TRIED TO KILL US!
HOW CAN YOU LET HER JOIN OUR GROUP?!
DON'T YOU SEE? IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THIS, IT MEANS THAT ELF IS COMING WITH US!
WHAAAAAT?!!
THAT IS QUITE FINE WITH ME!!
ABSOLUTELY

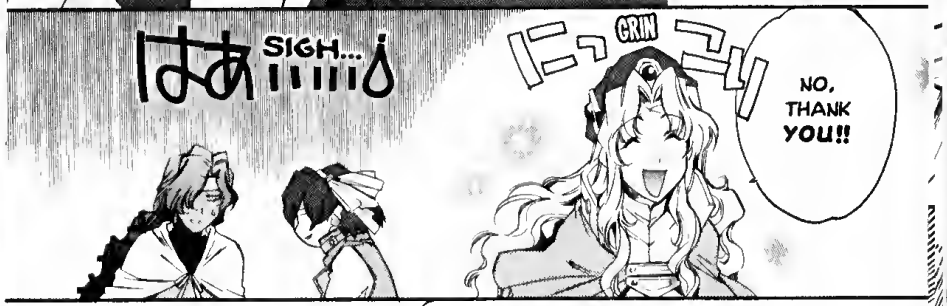
ORDEAL...
試練
IT'S... SNOW-ING.
SNOW...

IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE SUM-MER!!
CUT THE CRAP!!

WE BETTER GET THIS JOB DONE QUICK.

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

SO HAVE YOU DECID-ED?
Guess we have no other choice...
HEH HEH...
おっし!! ALRIGHTY!!
THEN LET'S CONTINUE THE STORY AT ILA'S PLACE.
THANKS!


はあ SIGH...
にっこり GRIN
NO, THANK YOU!!

WHA?!
HM...?
K-CHK
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A LETTER FROM THE MAN WHO'S TRYING TO RECONSTRUCT THE WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE.

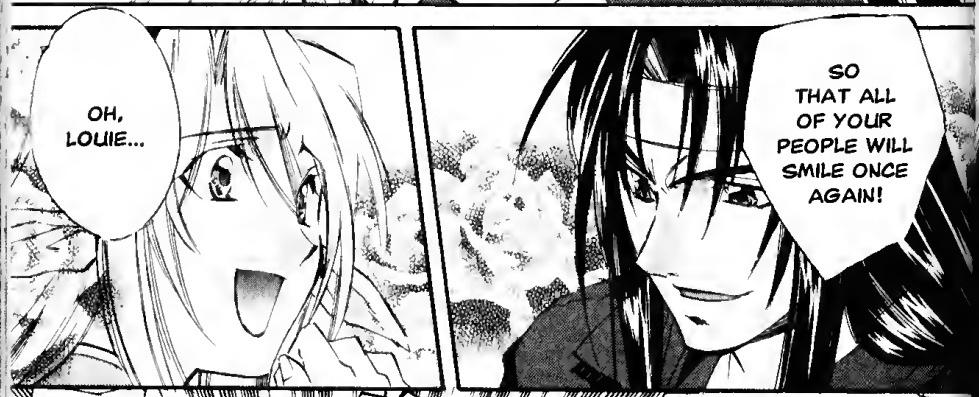
HMM...?
THIS IS THE LETTER FROM BANARL,
THE ONE WHO'S BEEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON ARTIFICIALLY MANIPU-LATING THE WEATHER.
HE WHO...
CONTROLS THE ELEMENTS?
WHAT A WEIRD NAME.
HE WROTE THAT THIS EXPERI-MENT
IS PART OF HIS LIFE'S FINAL RESEARCH.
BANARL WAS VERY OLD.

COME IN.
WHOA...
HERE IT IS.
I'LL HAVE TO ROB THIS PLACE SOMETIME ...
THE AUZARL COMPANY, HUH?
They're totally RICH.
WHAT A PLACE!
YEP.
ILA'S FAMILY RUNS THE BIGGEST COMPANY IN OHFUN.

CELECIA!!!
YEEARGH
SORCERER
WHERE DOES SHE GET OFF SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT **RIGHT IN FRONT** OF A SORCERER?!
TWITCH
HOW CAN SORCERERS BE SO CRUEL? AND FOOLISH!
DOES HE KNOW WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE **SPIRITS?**
TRYING TO CONTROL NATURE USING MAGIC...

"HIS LIFE'S FINAL RESEARCH"? YOU MEAN...
CONTROLLING THE WEATHER?
YEAH...
SOMEONE WHO CAN MANIPULATE THE WEATHER COULD EASILY BRING AN ENTIRE KINGDOM OR EVEN **KINGDOMS** UNDER HIS CONTROL!
IN BATTLE, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER ITSELF CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VICTORY AND DEFEAT.
THEN, SOMEONE WHO CONTROLS THE ELEMENTS COULD EVEN CONQUER THE **WORLD.**
WHAT A FRIGHTENING DEVICE.
THE WEATHER IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRITS OF NATURE.
UH, WHY'RE YOU **SMILING?**
あら：
OH, MY...
HOW AWFUL.

I'LL DO IT.
JUST YOU WAIT!
I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF THINGS, CELECIA!
AWRIGHT!!


OH, LOUIE...
SO THAT ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL SMILE ONCE AGAIN!

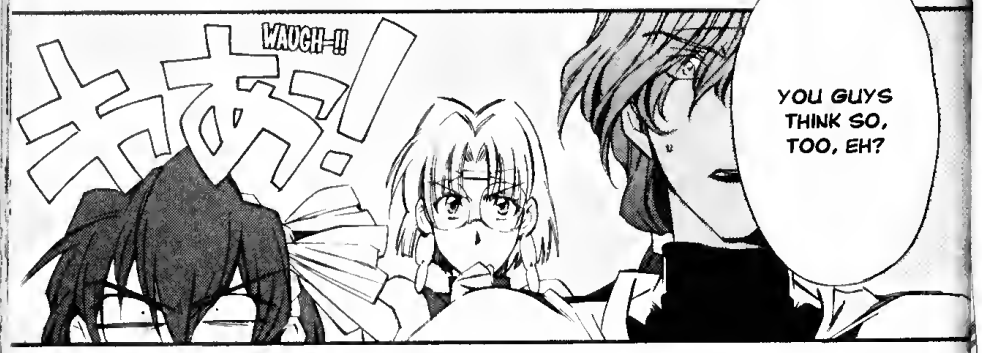
WHAT WAS THAT?!
FWISH
BLEH
WELL, JUST TRY NOT TO GET IN OUR WAY, ALL RIGHT?

PAT
AT LEAST, I THINK THAT'S WHAT OTHER ELVES MIGHT SAY...

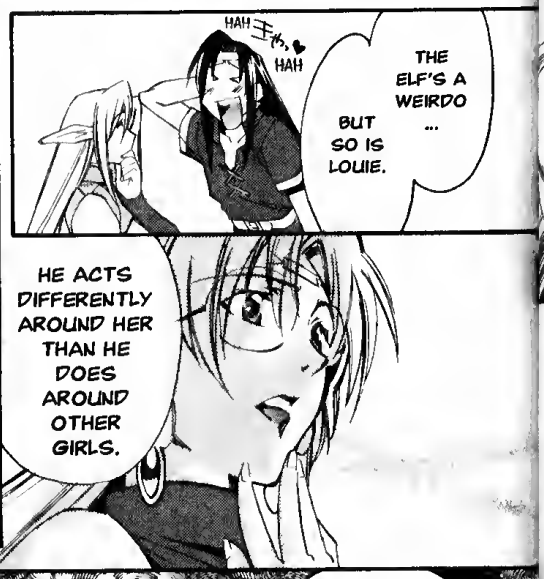
HUH?!
YOU'RE THE GREATEST!!

RIGHT BACK AT'CHA.
MAYBE YOU COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM HER!
HEY!! DID YOU HEAR THAT JUST NOW?!
MORON

OH, YOU ELVES!!
WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU'RE RIGHT!!
HOW PURE OF HEART YOU ARE!!
SMACK


YOU GUYS THINK SO, TOO, EH?
WAUGH-!!

I'M THE CLIENT, SO IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO GO, TOO.
OH DEAR,
YOU KNOW THAT.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, WHY NOT COME ALONG?


HAH
HAH
THE ELF'S A WEIRDO ...
BUT SO IS LOUIE.
HE ACTS DIFFERENTLY AROUND HER THAN HE DOES AROUND OTHER GIRLS.

IF THERE REALLY IS A MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE THAT'S GONE OUT OF CONTROL...
THEN YOU MAY ENCOUNTER SPIRITS THAT HAVE GONE BERSERK FROM THE MACHINE DISRUPTING THEIR ENVIRONMENT. IT MAY END UP BEING A DANGEROUS JOURNEY.

I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW FAR I HAVE COME!!
THANKS TO GENIE'S SWORD TRAINING,
I'M NOW MORE SKILLED THAN EVER BEFORE!!
RIGHT...
あぇ...

I AGREE.

THAT ELF IS A STRANGE ONE.
WHAT DID SHE MEAN EARLIER?
WHAT'S THAT, GENIE?

アイラのとっておきの
ONE OF ILA'S...
アイテム……？
PRIZED ITEMS...?

ONE OF ILA'S ...
ビーム
BEAM
PRIZED ITEMS...?
PRIZED?

I'LL BRING IT TO YOU BEFORE YOU SET OFF!
I'LL BET YOU CAN'T WAIT!
Uh...Oh.
OKAY...

ONLY...
GUESS SO...
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE GONNA MAKE SOME MONEY. ♥

OF COURSE ...
IF YOU DO SUCCEED, YOU'LL BE REWARDED QUITE HAND-SOMELY. ♡
REALLY?!

I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT LOUIE GOING ALONE...
ON SUCH A DANGER-OUS JOURNEY.

AND SO...
I HAVE ONE OF MY PRIZED ITEMS...
FOR YOU TO TAKE ALONG. ♡

WHAT ...
IS THAT?
BOING ぼいーん
FLAP パタ
FLAP パタ
FLAP パタ
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
THMP
THMP
LET ME INTRO-DUCE YOU!
NYA!
THIS IS MY PRIZED ITEM...
DON'T YOU GO RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT NOW!
ILA...
ILA, DON'T TELL ME THIS...
MY FAMILIAR, ALE. ♡

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE READY TO GO.
I WONDER WHAT THE HECK ILA'S PLANNING ON BRINGING US.
I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE REALLY IN FOR IT NOW!
LISTEN, IF IT'S ONE OF HER "PRIZED ITEMS"...
FLAP パタ
FLAP パタ
FLAP パタ
HUH?

YOU MEAN THIS THING'S ...
ILA'S FAMILIAR, ALE
ALE CAN REPLENISH YOUR MAGIC.
PRETTY USEFUL IF YOU GET TIRED OUT!
NYA!
YUP! ♡
I CAN THINK OF A BETTER USE.
HEH
SNEER
BUT... HOW DO YOU USE IT?
ISN'T IT? ♥
OH, WOW, MY... THAT DOES SEEM USEFUL.
IT'S KINDA CUTE, TOO.
ADVENTURE 13
LOUIE'S WEAPON

WHAT THE HECK IS IT?!!!

ADVENTURE 13
LOUIE'S WEAPON

STOP IT!!
NOW YOU BE NICE TO ALE!
WELL, IF IT'S GONNA BE USEFUL...
LISTEN, THERE'S A VILLAGE LESS THAN HALF A DAY'S HIKE FROM BANARL'S MANSION.
AS FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, JUST GO TO THAT VILLAGE AND TRY ASKING AROUND.
A HIGHWAY RUNS BETWEEN THE TWO, SO YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT FINDING PLACES TO EAT.
SCUFF
SO THIS IS THE VILLAGE, HUH?
THE CLOSEST PLACE TO BANARL'S MANSION...
UM, EXCUSE ME.
IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS VILLAGE WHO KNOWS ABOUT A GUY NAMED BANARL?
SQUINT
BANARL?
EVERYONE HERE KNOWS ABOUT BANARL. HE'S A WEIRD, OLD MAGICIAN...
LIVES UP THERE ON THE MOUNTAIN.
THERE WAS SOME RUMOR GOING AROUND ABOUT HIM HAVING A MACHINE THAT CAN CONTROL THE WEATHER, BUT...

HEH HEH HEH.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT...MY HERO.
はあ...
SIGH...
EVEN IF YOU DO PASS THIS TRIAL, YOU STILL MUST MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO PEOPLE FIRST...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE FAMOUS.
I SEE! SO, THEN... YOU ARE A SORCERER.
エッヘン
HEH
RIGHT!!
WHAT THE HECK?!
なんでアアア...
THEN GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE, YOU BASTARD!!
YEEEEARGH!!
AIEEEEE!!
WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH MAGICIANS! NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OF IT WHEN THEY'RE AROUND!!
WE'VE COME FROM AFAR TO PROTECT THIS WORLD'S WEATHER FROM BANARL'S CONTROL...
AND PUT AN END TO HIS SO-CALLED MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU LOOK LIKE A SORCERER, TOO. YOU ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES OR SOMETHING?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
HEH...
CHECK THIS OUT!!!
I AM THE ADVEN-TURER, LOUIE THE RUNE SOLDIER!
AND THIS IS MY MERRY BAND!!!
COOL IT!!

WHOA, HOLD UP, GENIE!! LET'S TAKE A QUICK BREAK FIRST.
FLOP
WHAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEATHER'S GOING TO ACT UP AGAIN.
I JUST WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET WORN OUT FROM ALL THIS WALKING.
LOUIE...
WE GOT CHASED OUT...
WHY THE HELL'D YOU DO THAT?!!!
YOU IDIOT!!
THAT PLACE WAS OUR LAST CHANCE FOR GETTING FOOD AND SUPPLIES!!!
SNIFFLE
huff
huff
LICK
FLINCH!
DANGER
DON'T WORRY, MERRILL ...
WE HAVE EMERGENCY RATIONS.
FREAK!!
WE AT LEAST KNOW THE WAY TO THE MANSION,
SO LET'S JUST HURRY THERE.
SKRUNKK

YOU UNDER-STAND HOW THEY WORK, RIGHT?!
HUH?!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL UPON ONE OF THOSE SPIRITS SO WE CAN TALK TO IT OURSELVES?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU CAN SUMMON SPIRITS, RIGHT?
B-BUT...
IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, I PROMISE I'LL PROTECT YOU!!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE THERE.
OH, LOUIE!

WITHER
JUST DON'T OVERDO IT. ELVES DON'T HAVE THE GREATEST ENDURANCE, AFTER ALL.
IT'S OKAY, I'LL DO MY BEST...
FLIRT
FLIRT
FLIRT
THANK YOU.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS A LITTLE TIRED...
BUT I'M ALL RIGHT.
WE SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPIRITS.

CELECIA...
IF THE SPIRITS THAT GOVERN THE WEATHER HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO CHAOS BY A MAGICAL DEVICE...
THEN IT MUST BE SUPPRESS-ING THEIR POWERS IN SOME WAY.

GULP
Oh, maidens of the wind...

GOOD CALL.
OH WELL, NO BIG DEAL. LET'S JUST TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REST.
AH, NOW HE'S CALLING ALL THE SHOTS ON HIS OWN. YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
SHE'S BEYOND HOPE.
IT'S ALL PART OF THE HERO'S TRIAL!
I'LL BEGIN RIGHT AWAY.
OKAY, THEN...
FWAAAAAH

AAAAAAH!
FSSK
FSSK
FSSK
FSSK
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
CELECIA!
THE SPIRITS ARE GOING OUT OF CONTROL!

I wish to speak with you...
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
GLARE

CELECIA!
I'LL SAVE YOU!!
SWOOSH
DAMN!
WHAT THE-?
YEEARGH!
I can't cut 'em!
HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
STUPID AMATEUR!!
USE YOUR HEAD, DAMN IT!!
YOUR SWORD WORK SUCKS,
BUT THE KEY TO THIS FIGHT IS THAT SWORD ITSELF!!
ONLY WEAPONS MADE OF SILVER OR INFUSED WITH MAGICAL POWER WILL WORK AGAINST SPIRITS!!
OH... NOW I GET IT!
IT'S NO USE, GENIE!
THIS THING DOESN'T WORK!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT !!!
YOU IDIOT!!
SMACK
GO, PRIZED ITEM!!
Who--?!
Dead

GATHER HERE IN MY HAND!!!
I CALL UPON THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF MANA...
HAND?!
VWOOOR
CLATTER

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
LISTEN! IF YOU'RE A SORCERER, YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW SOME SPELLS THAT'LL WORK!
IF SHE GETS KILLED, IT'LL RUIN OUR REPUTATION!!
HERE! CAST A SPELL ON MY SWORD!!
HEY!! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
A WEAPON WITH MAGICAL POWER WILL WORK, RIGHT?
I GOT IT...!
GRIN

MY WEAPON ...
IS MY FISTS!!
IT'S MY JOB...
TO PROTECT CELECIA!!!
SWACK
PWSHHHH
ALL RIGHT!!
THAT ONE SURE CONNECTED!!!

NNGH...
AH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO MELISSA.
SHE HEALED YOU WITH HER MAGIC.
MELISSA ...
WHAT ABOUT THE SPIRITS?
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK?

HE ANNIHILATED ALL OF THEM.
ケエ!! YEAH!!

I'M GONNA TAKE DOWN EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM!!!
JUST WAIT THERE, CELECIA!!

LOUIE...
HEEEYARGH!!
OH, BROTHER ...
JUST LET HIM GO.

IF I HAD BEEN THE ONE TO FIGHT THOSE SYLPHS,
THE ELF MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN BY WITH LESS SERIOUS INJURIES...
THAT STINKING AMATEUR...
HE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE IGNORING ME LIKE THAT.
RUMBLE
GASP
I SENSE HATE?!

BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW SHIT ABOUT SPIRITS?!!!
AND HE'S A SORCERER...

HM?
TAP TAP

I'M SORRY...
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

I TOLD YOU TO SUMMON THOSE SPIRITS WITHOUT REALLY THINKING ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS IT COULD BE.
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

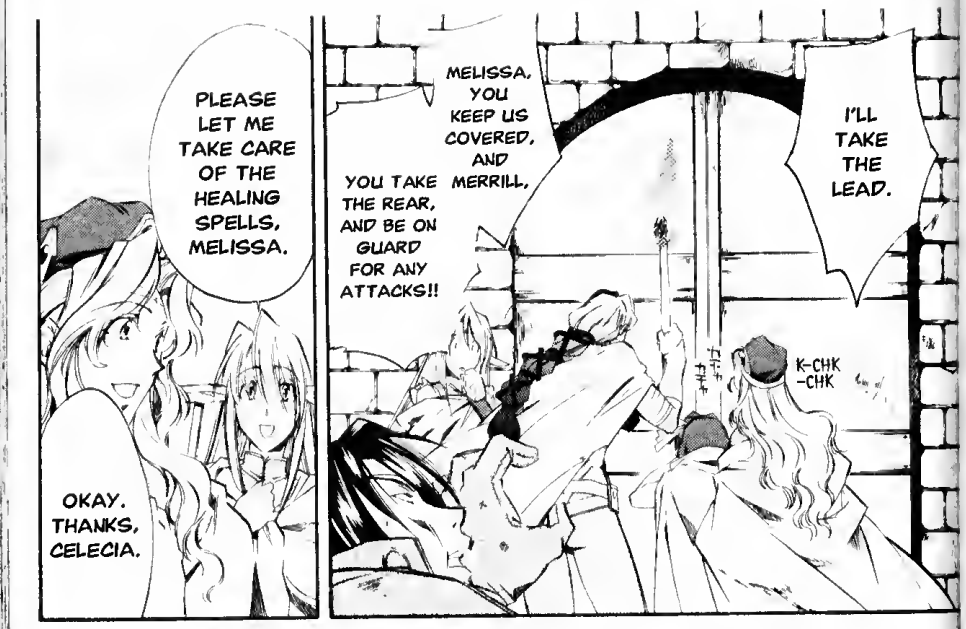
HEH
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, MELISSA?

BEFORE WE KNOW IT, THIS STORY WILL BE A GREAT LEGEND, TO BE PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS.
SIGH

CELECIA...
♡
BUT YOU STILL PROTECTED ME...JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED!

ADVENTURE 14
THE ELEMENTAL MAGICIAN'S TOWER
WE MADE IT.
SO THIS IS...
BANARL'S TOWER.

BWHACK
YOU... GODDAMN MORON!!!
.....
PAIN
YOU'RE A TOTAL LOSER OF A SOR-CERER!!


PLEASE LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE HEALING SPELLS, MELISSA.
OKAY. THANKS, CELECIA.
MELISSA, YOU KEEP US COVERED, AND MERRILL, YOU TAKE THE REAR, AND BE ON GUARD FOR ANY ATTACKS!!
I'LL TAKE THE LEAD.
K-CHK -CHK

GLARE
NOT GET IN OUR WAY!!
UM, GENIE... WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

CREAK
!

WE SHOULD ALSO FIND THAT MAGICAL WEATHER-CONTROL DEVICE OF HIS HERE.
HEH HEH... THIS IS WHERE THAT OLD FART LIVES, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED MASTER OF THE ELEMENTS.

皆の者オレに続けエ!!
FOLLOW ME, EVERYONE!!
ドドドドド
STAMPEDE
OUTTA THE WAY, BAG BOY!!
HERE WE COME, BANARL!!
I, LOUIE THE RUNE SOLDIER ...
AM COMING TO UNCOVER YOUR-
UARGH!
MERRILL, UNLOCK THAT DOOR!
LOUIE
LET'S GO!!

ADVENTURE 14
THE ELEMENTAL MAGICIAN'S TOWER
A FLESH GOLEM.

WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
WHY THE HELL'D YOU-
MRMPH!
YEOWCH!!
BWACK
YOU MORON!!

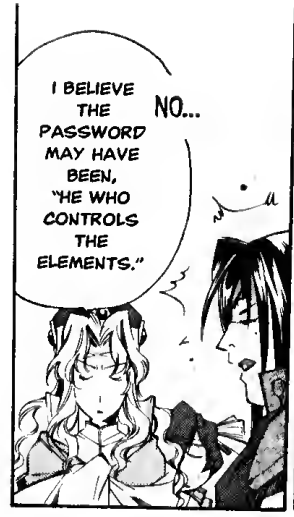
"WHY THE HELL'D YOU... MRMPH"
"WHAT WAS THAT... YOU MORON!!"
GLARE
YOU FRICKING MORON!!
WH-WHAT?
YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS INTRUD-ERS.

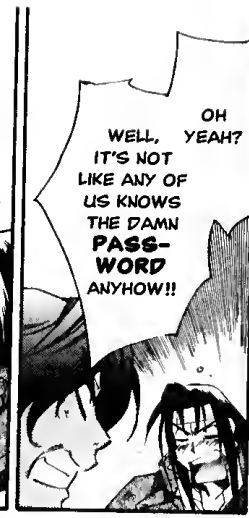
HRHHH
HRHHH

WHAT WAS THAT?!
GLOWER!
ALL PRAISE...
MY NAME.

THMP
WATCH OUT!! EVERYONE, FALL BACK!!
SMASH
WAUUGH!!
GENIE! I'LL BACK YOU UP!!

GENIE, I'LL KEEP IT DISTRACTED!!
YOU TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY, AND ATTACK IT FROM BEHIND!!
ARE YOU INSANE?! YOU'LL BE KILLED!!


I BELIEVE THE PASSWORD MAY HAVE BEEN, "HE WHO CONTROLS THE ELEMENTS."
NO...


WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF US KNOWS THE DAMN PASSWORD ANYHOW!!
OH YEAH?

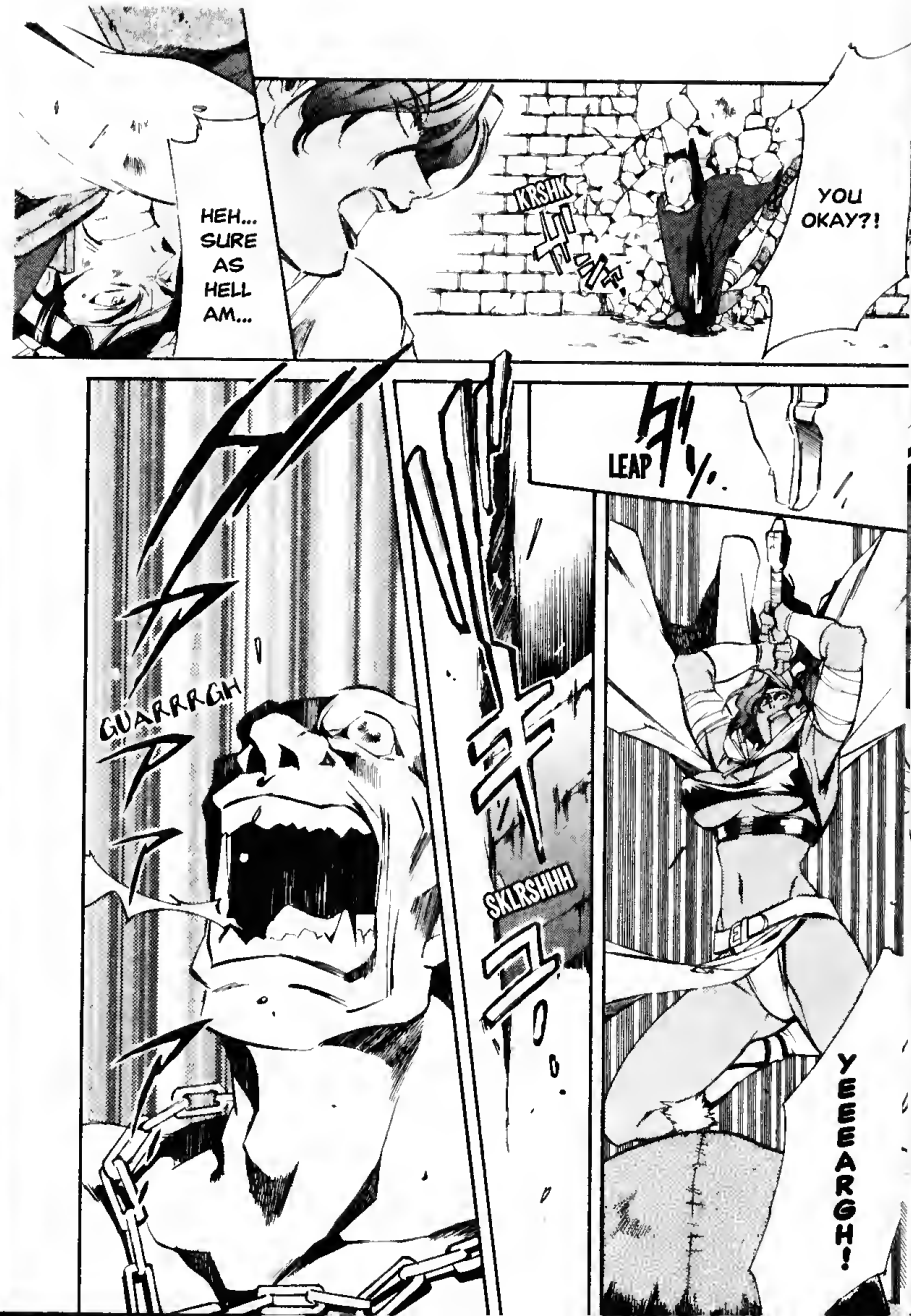
THAT WAS WHAT BANARL CALLED HIMSELF IN ILA'S LETTER.

IF HE'S GONNA ENTRUST HIS PUPIL WITH HIS SECRETS,
YA'D THINK HE'D TELL HER THE DAMN PASSWORD, TOO!
RUMBLE

THAT THING WAS WAITING FOR A PASSWORD!!
RUMMMBLE
SHUDDER
IF WE HAD SAID THE RIGHT THING,
WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO FIGHT IT!!

YURGH!!
RUMBLE
THAT WAS CLOSE !!
GASP
SCRACK
VWOOSH
WHOOP!!
BWACK
HRMP-!
BUT THAT MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!!
YEP, I MIGHT.
YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO LIVE A LONG LIFE!!
LET'S DO IT!!

WOOOO
DID I GET HIM?!
THMP
GLEAM
URNGH...
BMF
BKRASH
COUGH
SHIT... I DIDN'T DO A DAMN THING!!
GRARGH


HEH... SURE AS HELL AM...
KRSHK
YOU OKAY?!
GUARRRGH
LEAP
SKLRSHHH
YEEEARGH!

DID HE DO IT?!
KAH-
RACK...

ZWOOSH
MAYBE WE NEED TO CRACK HIS SKULL!!
SCFF
IF THAT KINDA WOUND WON'T STOP HIM...
LEAP
FINISHING MOVE!!
STRAIGHT-LINE HEADSHOT!!

THMMP-PP
totter
shudder
HEE!
I...
I DID IT!
FLABBERGASTED
EVEN GOLEMS BITE THE DUST WHEN YOU CRACK THEIR SKULLS!!
I've NEVER seen that happen...
MAYBE IT WAS JUST DEFECTIVE.
HE BENT THE SWORD ...

quivvver
.....
SHH-POP!
I KINDA... BENT MY SWORD.

WHOA, IT IS COLD!
MAN, THIS PLACE IS FREEZING.
phew...
THE WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE IS PROBABLY UP THERE.
LET'S GO, THEN.
.....

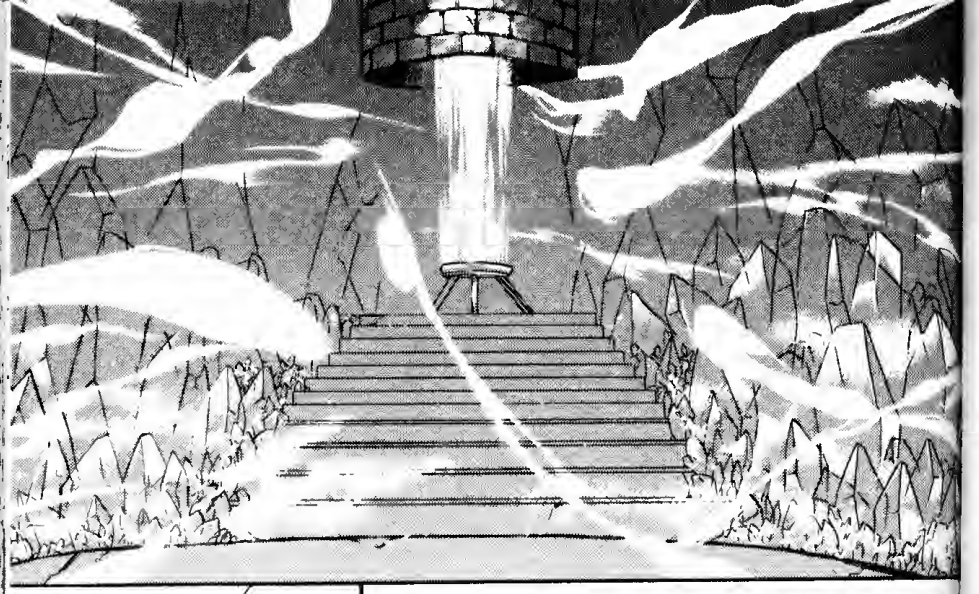
I BEAT HIM, SO WHO THE HELL CARES?!
STINKING AMATEUR!!!
weird
pfth
pthf
AND NOT JUST THAT ...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE "CUT" WITH THE FLAT OF THE SWORD INSTEAD OF THE BLADE.

CREEEAK

HO HO HO HO
ONE SURPRISE AFTER ANOTHER ...
ANYWAY... WE'VE CLEARED THE FIRST TRIAL, SO LET'S HURRY ON.

SURE THING.
MERRILL, WOULD YOU OPEN THIS DOOR?

I HOPE THERE ARE NO OTHER OBSTACLES IN HERE.
K-CHK-CHK
カチャ
カチャ
CHAK



I WAS STUPID TO EVEN ASK.
NO CLUE!!
BY THE WAY...DO YOU KNOW HOW WE TURN THAT THING OFF?
WHATSOEVER

WELL? ANYTHING UP IN THERE?!
.....

PISS OFF.
SHALL I OPEN IT?

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE WAY UP.

ズッ
SKSHH

THEY ARE ICE FAIRIES, CALLED FRAU.
THEIR TOUCH WOULD BE LETHAL TO A HUMAN BEING.

YES, I FELT THEIR PRESENCE ...

I COULD SEE THEM CLEARLY, TOO.
A WHOLE LOT OF THOSE RAMPAGING SPIRITS.

NICE IDEA
ナイスアイデア
THIS THING WILL KEEP THE SPELL GOING WHILE I'M INSIDE!
I'LL USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN OFF THE DEVICE!
Um

'CUZ I'VE GOT A PLAN!!
Poor you.
'BOUT TIME YOU GOT WOUND UP.

UH... OKAY.
MELISSA. CAST A SPELL OF PROTECTION ON ME!!

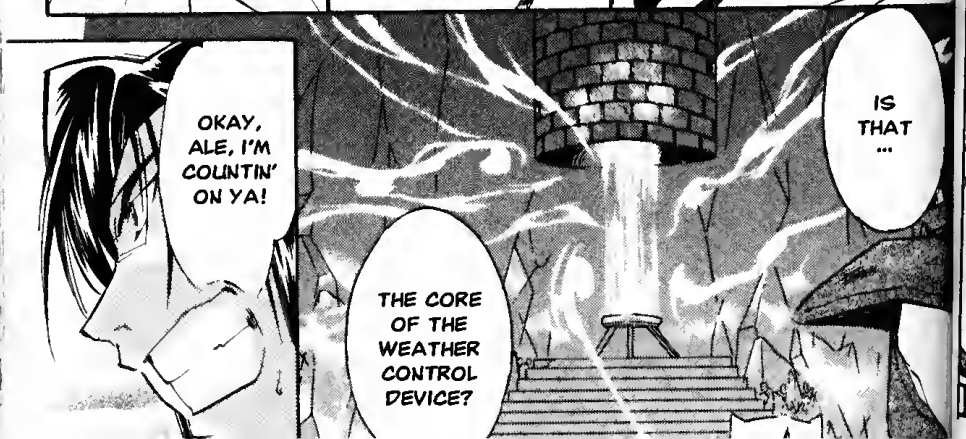
SO A SORCERER LIKE ME SHOULD TAKE IT APART!!
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHY YOU-!
jingle
I'LL BET MY LIFE SAVINGS YOU DIE BEFORE SHUTTING IT OFF.
WELL... A SORCERER PUT THAT THING TOGETHER.

IF WE GIVE UP NOW...
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

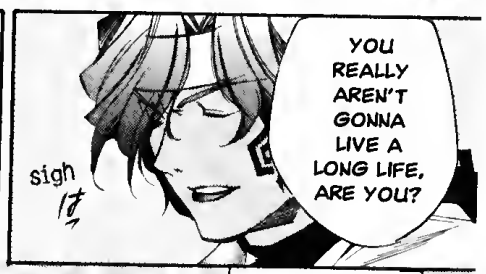
WE MUST GO IN THERE IF WE WANT TO TURN OFF THAT DEVICE.
BUT, YOU'RE SAYING IF WE DO, THOSE FRAU WILL FREEZE US TO DEATH, RIGHT?

BUT, I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY!
I GOT IT!
LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS!!

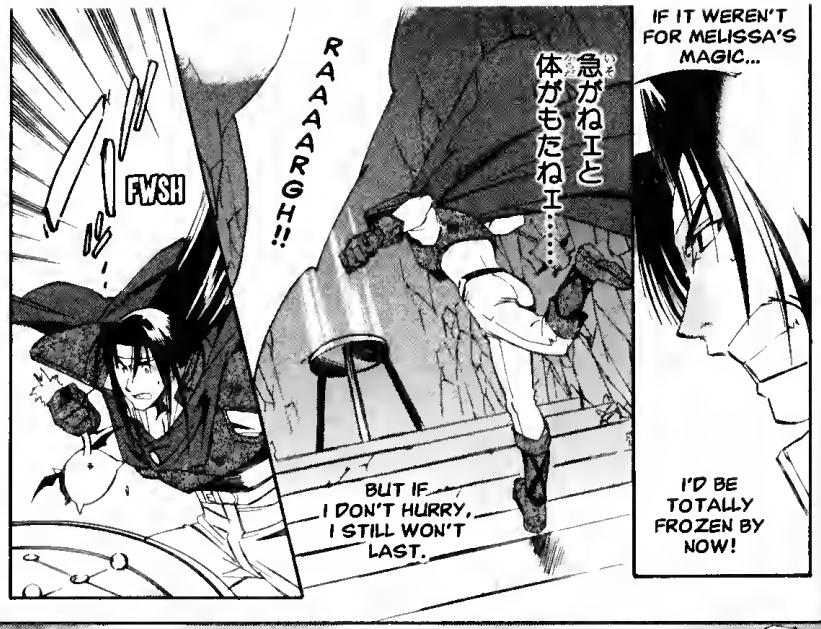
I GUESS WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM... HUH?
WELL, THE SITUATION'S DESPERATE.
MAYBE IT'S **NOT** SUCH A BAD IDEA TO GAMBLE IT ALL ON THAT IDIOT'S BRUTE STRENGTH.
THAT'S TRUE...


OKAY, ALE, I'M COUNTIN' ON YA!
THE CORE OF THE WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE?
IS THAT ...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M NOT GONNA LOSE THAT BET.


YOU REALLY AREN'T GONNA LIVE A LONG LIFE, ARE YOU?
sigh
はぁ

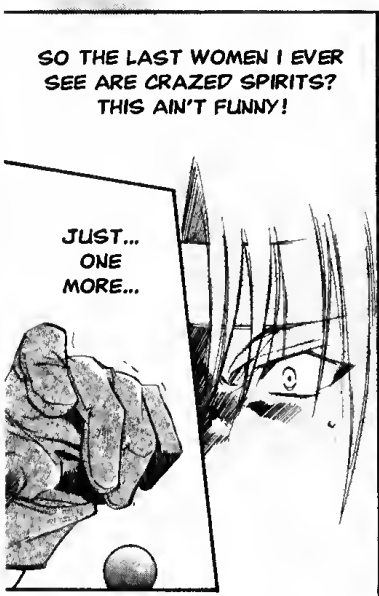
OKAY, THEN.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!
OF COURSE! I AIN'T DYIN'!!
SPELL OF PROTECTION
NO, I DO BELIEVE A **HERO** WOULD **SURELY** BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS ORDEAL...


IF IT WEREN'T FOR MELISSA'S MAGIC...
I'D BE TOTALLY FROZEN BY NOW!
急がねエと体がもたねエ……
RAAAARGH!!
FWSH
BUT IF I DON'T HURRY, I STILL WON'T LAST.

THE CONTROL PANEL...?!
THIS MUST BE...
これは……
制御板…!?
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
FIVE CRYSTAL SPHERES?
RED, BLUE, YELLOW, GREEN, WHITE...

LET'S GO!!
YEOWCH!!

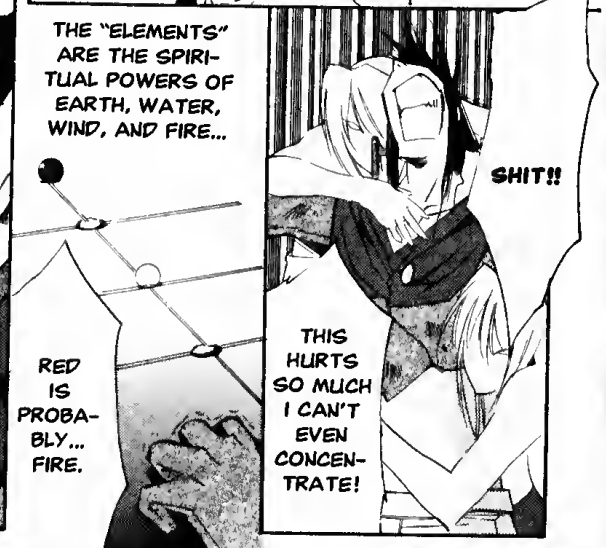
URGH...
ARRGH!!
RNGH...


SO THE LAST WOMEN I EVER SEE ARE CRAZED SPIRITS? THIS AIN'T FUNNY!
JUST... ONE MORE...

もう…ヤベェ…
NOT GOOD... MY BODY'S GETTING ALL NUMB...
体中の神経がイカれちまって…
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE A GONER. I'LL NEVER SCORE AGAIN...
huff
huff
このままじゃもうお姉ちゃんといいことできねェじゃんか…

BLUE COULD BE WIND OR WATER, GREEN COULD BE EARTH OR WATER...
YELLOW AND WHITE... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

gasp
gasp
HEY, CAT!! KEEP CHARGING THE MAGIC, DAMMIT!


THE "ELEMENTS" ARE THE SPIRITUAL POWERS OF EARTH, WATER, WIND, AND FIRE...
RED IS PROBABLY... FIRE.
SHIT!!
THIS HURTS SO MUCH I CAN'T EVEN CONCENTRATE!

WHICH IS WHICH? HOW DOES IT WORK? I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL!!
I DON'T GET IT...

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
.....?
chnk
FWUMP
ROLL
!!!
YEEEAUGH!!!
YOU DUMBASS CAT!!!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU... DO...
-ING?
...UP.
WAKE UP, LOUIE...
LOUIE!!

OH, SO THIS IS HEAVEN, HUH?
MWEH HEH HEH HEH
JINGLE
HERE!!
NAH, IT ISN'T...
HO HO HO
YOU STOPPED THE WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE.
THAT MEANS I LOST THE BET.
AWESOME! AWESOME!!
THIS MUST MEAN I'M...A GENIUS?!!
I TOLD you!
SERI-OUSLY?!
THANK YOU, LOUIE.
NOW I CAN RETURN TO THE VILLAGE WITHOUT ANY WORRIES!!
WHA-? BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU JOINING OUR PARTY?
HUH?
THE HEAD ELDER ASKED ME TO GO AND FIND THE SOURCE OF THE SPIRITS' UNREST.
I THOUGHT IF I WERE TO JOIN YOUR PARTY I'D BE ABLE TO FIND THAT SOURCE EASIER.
ALOOF
TOTALLY
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO HIRE YOU TO DO IT, SO...
I'M REALLY GLAD I COULD RELY ON YOU.
YOU MEAN WE WERE JUST BEING USED?

あーっはっはっはっは
WAUGH HA HA HA HA
YES, TO HAVE BEEN OF USE TO THOSE FINE FOREST ELVES WAS SIMPLY WONDERFUL!!!
D-DON'T TELL ME
THIS GUY IS FANTA-SIZING ABOUT SOME KINDA ROMANCE WITH AN ELF...
disgusting
CLEAM
IN ANY CASE, LET'S RETURN TO OHFUN AT ONCE!
I SEE...
BANARL HAD ALREADY DIED.
OUR HERO HAS SAVED THE WORLD, AND NOW ALL SHALL PRAISE AND LOVE HIM!!
Yeah, yeah
Okay, let's go home

SMOOCH
SWSHHH
WELL, TAKE CARE, LOUIE.
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOME-TIME. ♡
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
JUST WHAT I THOUGHT! YOU GOT TRICKED BY THAT ELF AGAIN!
WHY, BEING USED BY "THAT ELF" WAS...
AN HONOR!!

GRIN

BUT IT'S PROBABLY ALE WHO FIGURED OUT HOW IT WORKS...
SHIVER

HUSH MONEY?
WHOA!
NOW THIS IS A RICH PERSON'S PURSE.
YAY
OKAY, HERE'S YOUR REWARD!
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
AND THE HUSH MONEY'S INCLUDED, TOO.

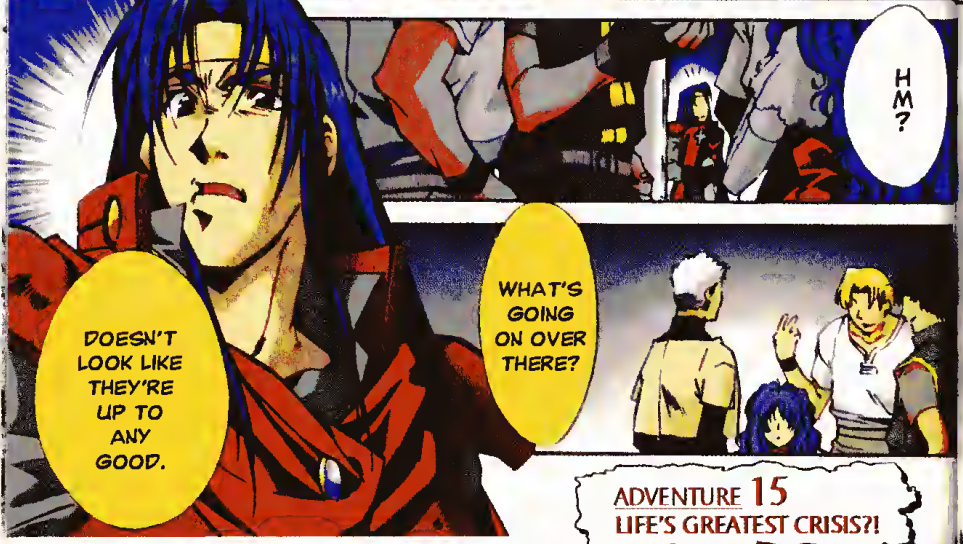
THANK YOU.
HE LITERALLY PUT HIS LIFE INTO RECONSTRUCTING THAT MACHINE, SO I THINK IT'S BEST IF HE'S BURIED BY IT.

WE FOUND HIM FROZEN NEAR THE DEVICE'S CONTROL PANEL.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRESUMPTUOUS, BUT WE BURIED HIM AT THE FOOT OF THE TOWER.

BEAM
BY THE WAY, THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD HOW YOU FIGURED OUT HOW THE CRYSTALS WORKED.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT THE WORLD WAS ACTUALLY SAVED BY THIS CAT'S LUCK.

HA HA HA HA
YEAH, WELL...A SORCERER BUILT THE THING, SO...
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE ELSE COULD'VE FIGURED IT OUT, RIGHT?

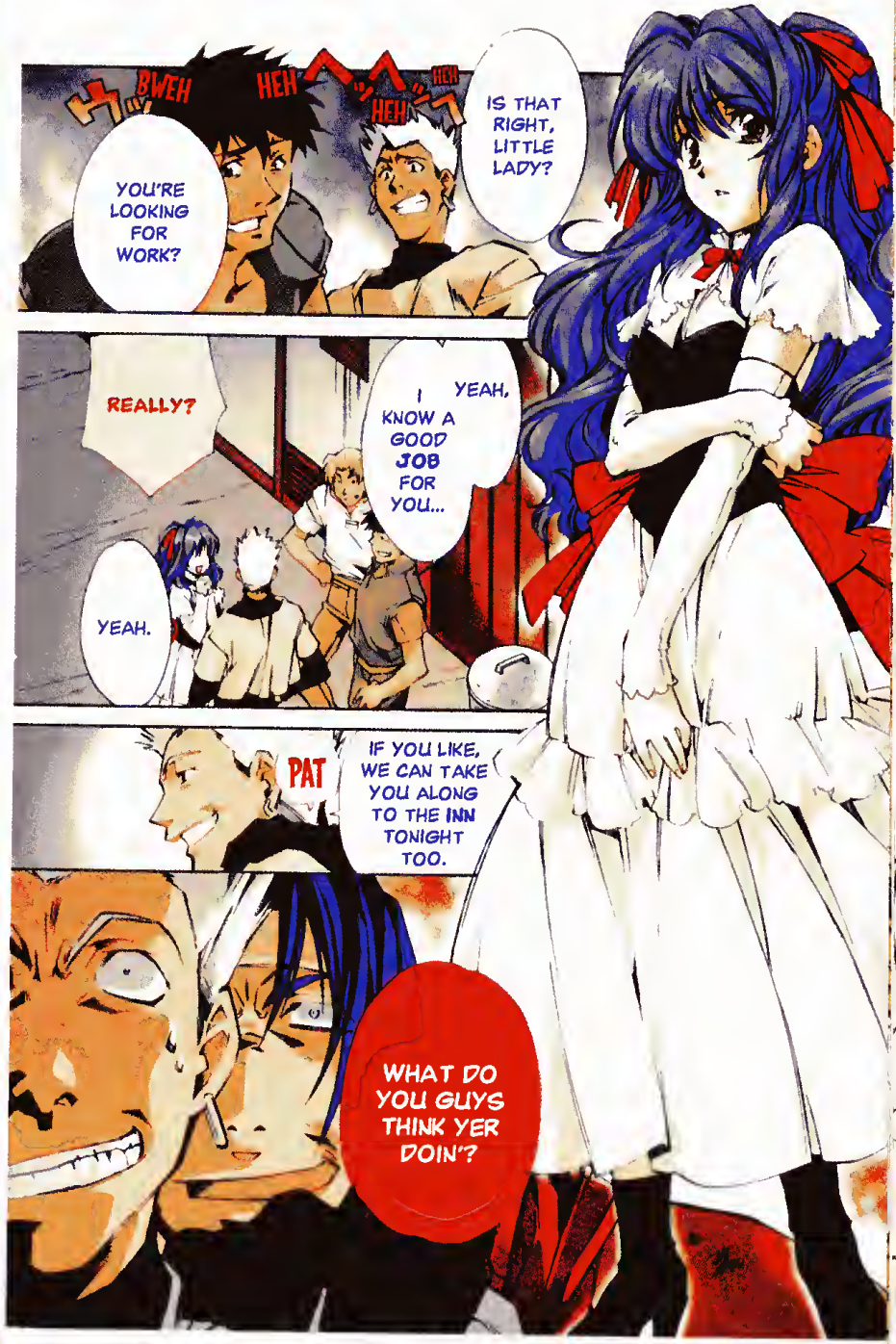


ADVENTURE 15
LIFE'S GREATEST CRISIS?!

IT WOULD BE PRETTY BAD FOR OUR REPUTATIONS!
♡
IF PEOPLE WERE TO FIND OUT A SORCERER WAS TO BLAME FOR ALL THE UNUSUAL WEATHER...
I'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP THIS LITTLE INCIDENT SECRET.

ADVENTURE 15
LIFE'S GREATEST CRISIS?!

SHOVE
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
HUH?
WHAT KIND OF ADULTS GO AROUND TRYING TO PICK UP LITTLE GIRLS?
STINKIN' PEDOPHILES!
DON'T SCREW WITH US!!
YOU GOT A DEATH WISH, PAL?
WHAT WAS THAT?
C'mon
THAT'S COOL. COME GET SOME!
Oh? YOU WANNA FIGHT?
FWICK
BASTARD ...


BWEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WORK?
IS THAT RIGHT, LITTLE LADY?
REALLY?
YEAH. I KNOW A GOOD JOB FOR YOU...
YEAH.
PAT
IF YOU LIKE, WE CAN TAKE YOU ALONG TO THE INN TONIGHT TOO.
WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK YER DOIN'?

SMACK
K-THWMP
GEESH
THAT SHOULD SOBER YOU PUNKS UP.
SO MUCH FOR THE HONOR OF THE THIEVES' GUILD.
PAT PAT
MERRILL'S ... FRIEND?
YOU MEAN AN ADVEN-TURER?!
TOTTER
DAMN, THAT'S RIGHT... I RECOGNIZE THIS GUY!
I THINK HIS NAME IS...
I'M ONE OF MERRILL'S FRIENDS, TOO.
I THINK WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.
cough
URGH ...
YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?
YEAH.
MERRILL'S BUDDIES, RIGHT?

LOUIE!
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M LOUIE...
THE RUNE SOLDIER!!
DAMN IT.
PFOOH
NOTHIN' WE CAN DO 'BOUT IT IF HE'S MERRILL'S FRIEND.
LET'S GO!!
SHIT... I GOTTA HAVE A WORD WITH MERRILL ABOUT THIS.
UNN... ouch
HMM
I WONDER IF IT WAS A MISTAKE TO MENTION HER NAME.
HUH?
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
TUG TUG
THOSE GUYS WERE GOING TO GIVE ME A JOB AND A PLACE TO STAY TONIGHT.
WHOA, HOLD ON...

PEPEEEP
CHEEP CHEEP
SNORE
SNORE
AW, HECK.
I SHOULD SLEEP WELL TONIGHT.
Huh?!
OKAY, MURIEL, HOP ON!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO SOME-THING DIRTY, ARE YOU?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MURIEL ...
Ouch
GLARE
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A NICE, SAFE PLACE, SO BE NICE AND KEEP QUIET, WILL YA?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN KIDS.
You listenin' to me?
HEY!
You can trust me, though.
YOU SHOULDN'T GO AROUND JUST TRUSTING UTTER STRANGERS!
CRIPES ...

I HAD A LOUSY NIGHT THANKS TO YOU!!
Your adventurer buddy screwed up our damn job!
LEAST you could do is buy us all drinks for our troubles.

RRRIP
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!!!
WHOA, WATCH OUT!!
WAUCH!

YEARGH
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT GIVES ME GOOSE BUMPS!!
YAWN
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU TWO!
THAT'S MY LINE.
BOOM
WAIT!! LET ME EXPLAIN!!
SHUT UP!!
THUD

YOU AWAKE?
BLINK
NNM...

SPARE ME THE FRIENDLY GREETINGS, BUDDY!!
OH... MORNIN', MERRILL.

I THINK I KNOW WHO THIS GIRL IS, AFTER ALL.
THE RODRIGO COMPANY? AREN'T THEY YOUR FAMILY'S BUSINESS RIVALS?
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE RODRIGO COMPANY'S PRESIDENT.
WELL, I KINDA THOUGHT SHE LOOKED LIKE SOME RICH GUY'S KID.
BUT, WHAT WAS A KID LIKE THAT DOING WANDERING AROUND THE ALLEYS?
そりゃ狙われるわ!!
SHE'LL BE AN EASY TARGET

I RAN AWAY FROM HOME!
I...
BECAUSE I HATE MY FATHER!
HE'S DECIDED WHO I'M GOING TO MARRY!

yawn
WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
OH, AND HERE'S THE LOVELY MS. MAGICAL ITEM-FREAK!!
SUDDENLY BEING ENTRUSTED WITH A CHILD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS NO FUN.
MERRILL, THIS IS THE KID! RIGHT HERE!!
AND THE LACK OF SLEEP ISN'T DOING MY COMPLEXION ANY GOOD EITHER!
Dear me!
THIS KID IS TO BLAME FOR THE UPROAR!
はぁ?
HUH?

BY THE WAY, LOUIE-
HMPF
OF COURSE I WAS A THIEF AT HER AGE...
YEAH, SO WE HAD TO HELP HER OUT. THE STREETS AIN'T SO SAFE FOR A LITTLE GIRL!
This is who they're talking about?
あいつらなんの話?
SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL.

I...
LEFT MY HOME.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DECIDED TO FIGHT AGAINST MY FATHER'S DECISION!
AND THAT FIGHT IS ONE OF LIFE'S GOOD FIGHTS. YES, I AM A BELIEVER IN FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT!!
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE MELISSA.
And that's why I left home...
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME.
YES! I WILL!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU SHOULD FIGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST CIRCUM-STANCE, TOO!

NOW, WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE?
I GET IT...
AT FIRST, I WAS GOING TO DO AS MY FATHER SAID.
BUT I JUST CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.
SO I DECIDED TO ASK A PRIESTESS AT MYLEE'S TEMPLE FOR ADVICE.
AND SHE SAID ...
MURIEL ...
REALLY?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT ONCE HAPPENED TO ME, TOO.
I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW.

WHEN THEY FIGHT DURING "TRAINING," SHE ALWAYS BEATS THE CRAP OUT OF HIM!
Sorry! SORRY!!
Stinking amateur!!
AH HA HA HA
YEAH, AND ABOUT THE SWORD FIGHTING, RIGHT? HE'S NO MATCH FOR OUR OTHER FRIEND, GENIE (♀)!

IS THE GUY YOU'RE ENGAGED TO A LOSER LIKE THAT?
HE'S JUST NO GOOD. A GUY LIKE THAT DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE AT GETTING MARRIED.
Merrill's being mean to me!

想像図... VISION...
IT'S JUST HE'S...
What the hell?
I HAVEN'T MET HIM YET... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE'S FROM.
I WAS TOLD HE'S FROM NOBLE BLOOD,
BUT SUPPOSEDLY HE'S NOT THAT WELL-KNOWN.

Well...
MELISSA'S ONE OF MY ADVENTURING BUDDIES.
SAME AS MERRILL, HERE.
YOU MEAN-!
DO YOU KNOW THAT PRIESTESS?!

OH, A HERO...

YOU SEE, MELISSA GOT WORD FROM GOD THAT THIS GUY'S SUPPOSED TO BE A HERO.
SHOVE
EXCEPT MELISSA ISN'T SO SURE ABOUT HAVING FRIENDS LIKE THIS CHUMP.

But I sure am glad to go adventuring!
IN OTHER WORDS... MELISSA'S MY SERVANT, WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR NOT.

Hey, toots!
AND, HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A HERO, BUT HE CAN'T USE A SWORD AT ALL!
AND, HE'S A PERVERT TO BOOT!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SORCERER, BUT HE COULDN'T SPELL-CAST HIS WAY OUT OF A WET PAPER BAG.
BLA BLA BLA BLA BLA
yeah, well...

SIGH
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, NOW-
THE GUY'S REALLY TRASH!

HEY, SHUT UP!!
WHEN MERRILL WAS THAT AGE, SHE WAS REALLY LIVING HER LIFE.
Jeez ...
IT WOULD BE MEAN OF US TO JUST SEND HER BACK HOME, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T ENCOURAGE HER TO ACT SO IRRESPONSIBLY!!
.....!!

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL!
フン HMPF
.....
PISSED!!
OF COURSE, SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST UPSTANDING CITIZEN ...
Being a THIEF and all!
TAKES A HELLUVA LOT OF GUTS.
BUT STILL, LIVING ON YOUR OWN AT THAT AGE...

SOUNDS LIKE A SCHEME TO EXPAND THEIR COMPANY'S POLITICAL POWER TO ME.
ヤな話だね...
THAT SURE SUCKS...
MIGHT BE SOME NOBLE-MAN'S BASTARD SON.

NO!! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS!
I'M NOT GONNA DO WHAT MY FATHER SAYS. HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO I MARRY!
sigh ふぅ...
I GUESS THERE ARE SOME CRAPPY PARTS TO BEING RICH, TOO.
WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE YOU HOME SO YOU CAN AT LEAST MEET HIM? YOU CAN SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.

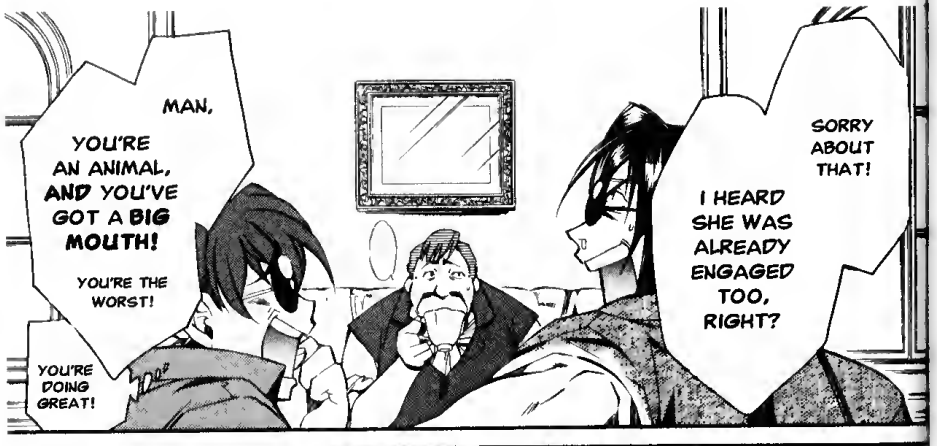
HOW CAN YOU BE SO STUPID?!
HEY!!
'Cuz he's an idiot.
Excellent!!
ALL RIGHT!!
WELL-SAID, MURIEL!!
CLASP

SO HERE WE ARE AT THE RODRIGO COMPANY'S MANSION. MY ONLY QUESTION IS...
OKAY,
WHAT THE HECK'S WITH THESE GET-UPS?!
HEY, THEY LOOK FINE IF YOU ASK ME.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING YOU!! I WANNA KNOW WHY WE HAVE TO DRESS LIKE THIS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME!
You're dressed like a guy, too!

SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SMACK
I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA.
FOR REAL?!
YEAH, BUT IT'S GONNA COST YA.
THIS plan...
FINE! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
OKAY!! HELP FROM OHFUN'S BIGGEST BUTTINSKI!!
SPARKLE
HEH
HEY, THAT I MAY BE,
BUT I JUST WANNA MAKE SURE MURIEL HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WELL NOW, ISN'T IT LUCKY YOU RAN INTO SUCH A NICE GUY?
boo
POSE!

WHAT?!
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW
THAT MY PAL HERE ALREADY TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF.
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WOULD SETTLE THINGS...
SO YOU CAN GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.
WELL I GUESS SOME SORT OF REWARD IS IN ORDER.
HEE HEE HEE
HE ALREADY HAD YOUR DAUGHTER AS HIS REWARD.
WHAT I MEAN IS...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
W-W-W-W-W-W-WAIT JUST A DAMN MINUTE!!!
WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, HE CAN'T REALLY HOLD HIMSELF BACK. HE'S AN ANIMAL!
WHA... WHAT?!

K-TINK
AH, I SEE ...
WHERE DID THESE WEIRD-OES COME FROM?
HA HA HA
YOU RESCUED MY DAUGHTER FROM A BUNCH OF THIEVES.
Understand? わかる?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, HANSEL!
MY BUDDY HERE SAVED HER, SEE?
UH, WELL... YEAH.
YO YO YO, YOU DOWN WITH THAT?
おうおうおうおうおう


MAN,
YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, AND YOU'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH!
YOU'RE THE WORST!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
I HEARD SHE WAS ALREADY ENGAGED TOO, RIGHT?

WELL YOU GOTTA ADMIT, IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT FOR LETTING YOUR DAUGHER OUTTA THE HOUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
GETTIN'...
HEY, THE ONLY PAYBACK THIS DAWG EVER NEEDS IS SOME LOVIN'!
DESPERATE!!

そそくさ... RUSH
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT.
WAIT JUST ONE MOMENT.
RATTLE...

I BELIEVE I'LL TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO HANG WITH YOUR DAUGHTER FOR A LITTLE WHILE AS MY REWARD.
AH, COME ON, BRO! YOU SAY THAT, BUT YA ALWAYS END UP DUMPIN' THEM!

DAMN...
NO OTHER CHOICE, I GUESS.
SIGH

あっさり BLUNT
I'M NOT THAT KINDA GUY!!
WHAT, DO YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

MWEH HEH HEH
HEY, A LITTLE EMBARRASS-MENT IS WORTH THE GIRL'S HAPPINESS, RIGHT?
YOU... YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH, WELL...
I GUESS YOUR DAUGHTER'S BEEN TAINTED NOW.
MIGHT AS WELL PLAY THE PART.
HM-HM.
sneer

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
H-HOW THE HECK DID HE RECOGNIZE YOU?!
I THINK YOU'VE G-GOT THE WRONG PERSON...
OH, I THINK NOT.
DUE TO THE NATURE OF MY BUSINESS, I FREQUENT THE ROYAL PALACE.
AND, YOUR FOSTER-FATHER, **CARWESS**, HAPPENS TO BE AN **ACQUAINTANCE** OF MINE.
WH-
WHAT?!

NO, IT'S NOTHING OF THE SORT.
BUT I **WILL** HAVE A WORD WITH YOU...
WHAT'S UP? ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE THINGS.
MY PAL HERE AIN'T STRAPPED FOR CASH, YOU KNOW.
LOUIE, THE SORCERER.

ADVENTURE 16
COMPLICATIONS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHA...
LOUIE AND MURIEL ARE GETTING MARRIED?!!!
DEFEATED
UH, WELL...
WH-WHAT'S THE M-MEANING OF THIS?
WE TOLD HIM LOUIE "VIOLATED" HIS DAUGHTER SO HE'D BREAK OFF THE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE OTHER GUY.
THE THING IS NOW HE WANTS LOUIE...
HUH?!
TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, NO?
HOORAY
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER NOW.
HE SERIOUS?!
IS...

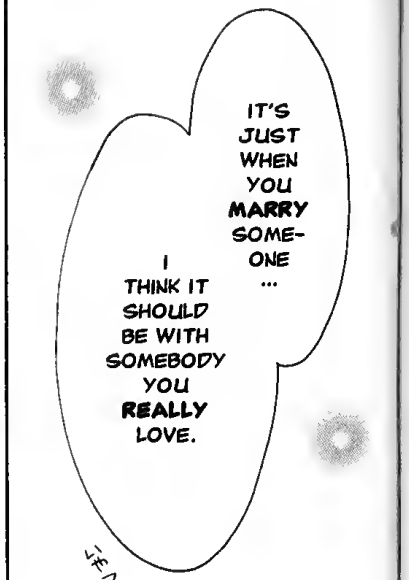
ADVENTURE 16
COMPLICATIONS!

YOU'RE KIDDING!!!

IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
THAT'S RIGHT, MURIEL. THINK ABOUT IT.

GRAGH!
CUT THE CRAP!!
PLUS, YOU'D HAVE A LOUSY TIME BEING MARRIED TO A WOMANIZER, LIKE THIS GUY.

HE PICKS THE WEIRDEST TIMES TO BE A NICE GUY.
HMM...
HMPF
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I HATE GUYS LIKE THAT.


IT'S JUST WHEN YOU MARRY SOMEONE...
I THINK IT SHOULD BE WITH SOMEBODY YOU REALLY LOVE.
SERIOUSLY

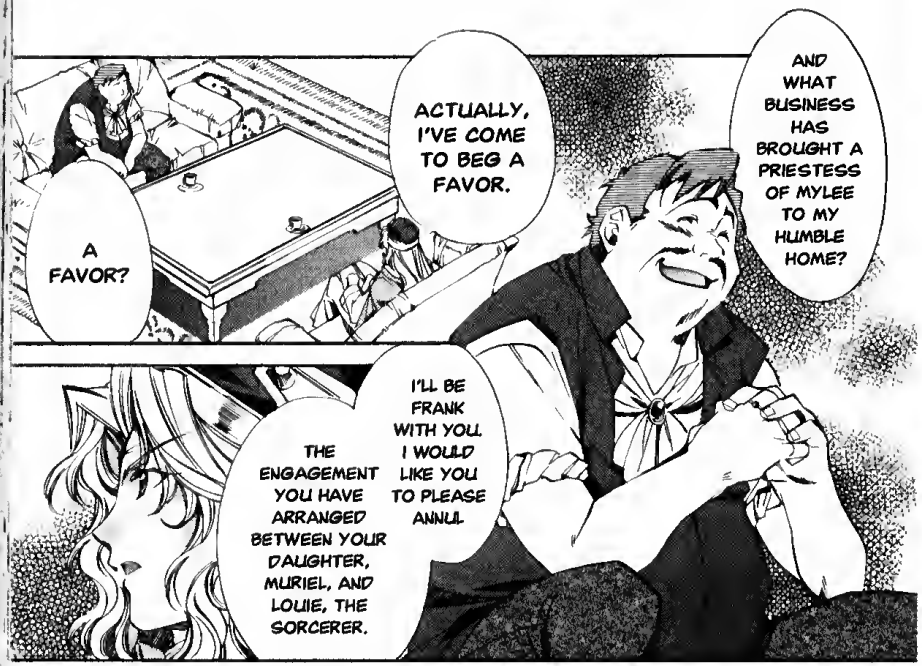
DON'T YOU LIKE ME, LOUIE?

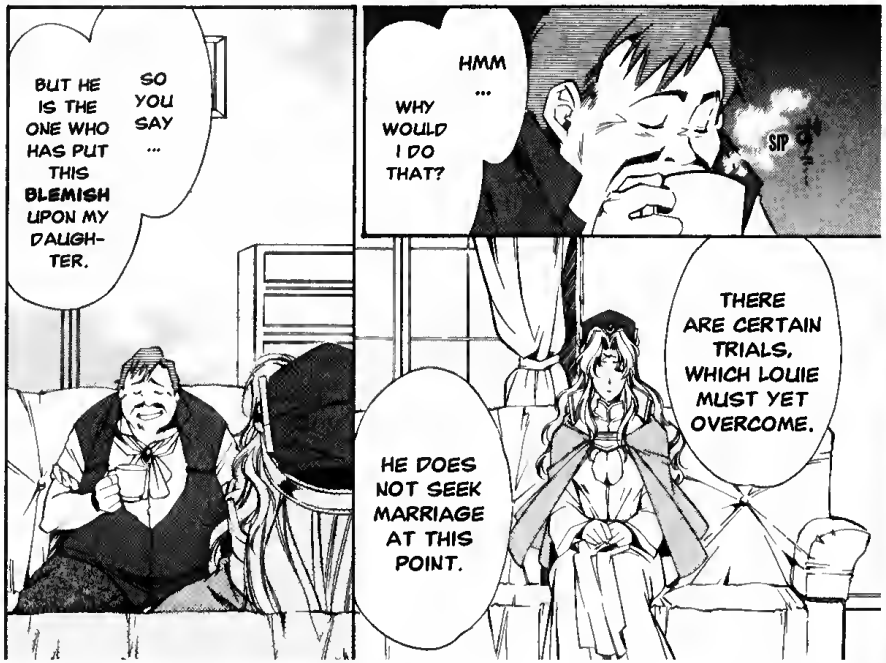
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU, MURIEL...
UMMMMM...

TEARYEYED
AH, I WAS JUST KIDDING, MURIEL! IT WAS ONLY A JOKE!!
JERK

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!!
IF YOUR BREASTS WERE A BIT LARGER AND YOUR BUTT WERE-
SMACK
MWEH HEH HEH

NNMMM...
NO USE
FLIP
I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
RIDICULOUS...
SPIN
BUT... HOW?
YOU'D HAVE TO TIE ME DOWN.
SHADDUP
C'MON
WAIT, GENIE! PLEASE!!
EEP!
MELISSAAAAH...
OKAAAAAAY?
AIEEEEE!!!
STAY BACK!!!
SAVE ME, MELISSA, SAVE MEEE...
THE HERO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SERVE IS SO DESPERATE HE COULD JUST DIE...
SHUT UP, MORON!!
THE WHOLE THING STARTED WITH YOU GETTING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS AGAIN!!
YOUR STUPID PLAN GOT US INTO THIS MESS, YOU KNOW!!
BY THE WAY-!!
YOU DID THIS TO YOUR-SELF!!
NOT MY PROBLEM!
NO WAY...
YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST GIVE IN TO YOUR FATE!!
SLAM
人生のお願い!!!
THE REQUEST OF MY LIFE!!!
I NEED YOUR HELP!!
GUYS! I'M BEGGING YOU!!


AND WHAT BUSINESS HAS BROUGHT A PRIESTESS OF MYLEE TO MY HUMBLE HOME?
ACTUALLY, I'VE COME TO BEG A FAVOR.
A FAVOR?
I'LL BE FRANK WITH YOU. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PLEASE ANNUL THE ENGAGEMENT YOU HAVE ARRANGED BETWEEN YOUR DAUGHTER, MURIEL, AND LOUIE, THE SORCERER.

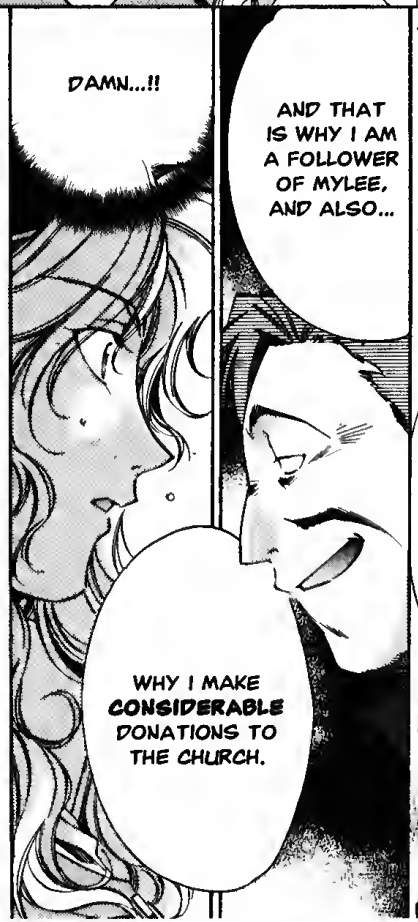

HMM ...
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
SIP
SO YOU SAY ...
BUT HE IS THE ONE WHO HAS PUT THIS BLEMISH UPON MY DAUGHTER.
THERE ARE CERTAIN TRIALS, WHICH LOUIE MUST YET OVERCOME.
HE DOES NOT SEEK MARRIAGE AT THIS POINT.

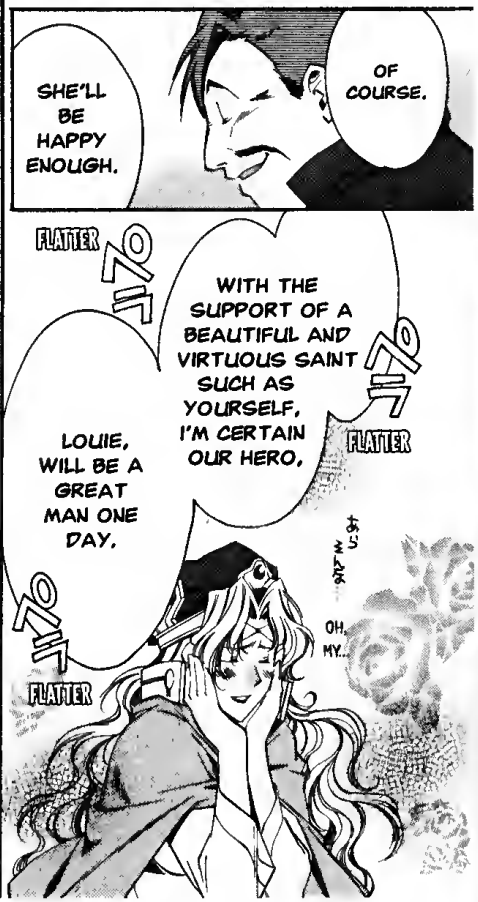
I'LL GO AND TRY TALKING TO MURIEL'S FATHER.
THOUGH I'M QUITE UNSURE ABOUT ALL THIS.
I SUPPOSE I MUST DO SOMETHING...
HAAP HAA
DON'T YOU LAY YOUR FILTHY PAWS ON HER!!

WHY, I DO BELIEVE IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.
?
PSHHH
YOU'RE...UNSURE? WELL YOU WERE SURE ENOUGH WHEN YOU GOADED HER INTO RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME, GETTING US INTO THIS WHOLE DAMN MESS!!

K-TNK
WELL, THEN...

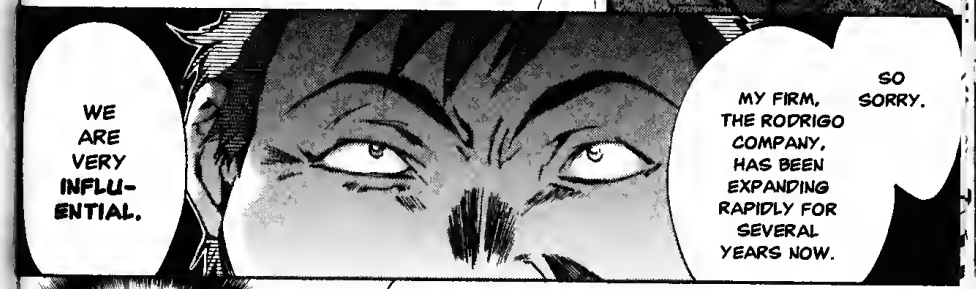
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT HER HAPPINESS?
AND YOU'D MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER OFF DESPITE KNOWING ALL THAT?!


DAMN...!!
AND THAT IS WHY I AM A FOLLOWER OF MYLEE, AND ALSO...
WHY I MAKE CONSIDERABLE DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH.


SHE'LL BE HAPPY ENOUGH.
OF COURSE.
FLATTER
WITH THE SUPPORT OF A BEAUTIFUL AND VIRTUOUS SAINT SUCH AS YOURSELF, I'M CERTAIN OUR HERO,
FLATTER
LOUIE, WILL BE A GREAT MAN ONE DAY.
FLATTER
OH, MY..

WHAT...?!
NEWS OF MY DAUGHTER'S BETROTHAL TO LOUIE HAS ALREADY SPREAD, EVEN BEYOND THE KNOWLEDGE OF MY OWN EMPLOYEES.
BY NOW IT'S PROBABLY ALL OVER TOWN.

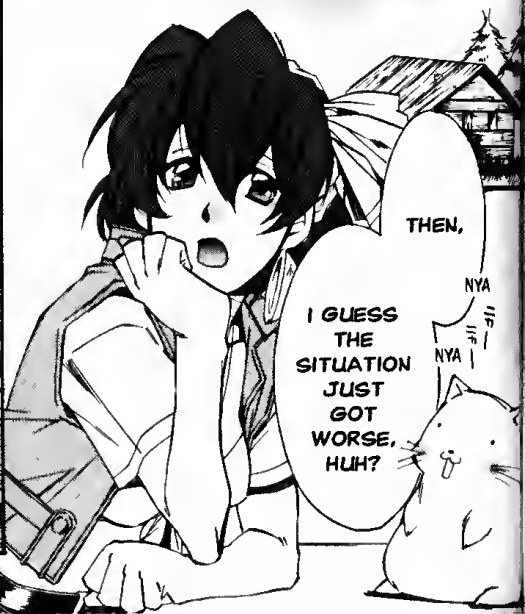
IT WAS ALL JUST AN ACT- TO TRICK YOU INTO CALLING OFF YOUR DAUGHTER'S ORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT!!
OH, DEAR...
I SEE. IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
BUT EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE ...


WE ARE VERY INFLUENTIAL.
SO SORRY.
MY FIRM, THE RODRIGO COMPANY, HAS BEEN EXPANDING RAPIDLY FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW.

WHAT A JERK!!!
HA HA HA
AFTER ALL, LOUIE IS NOTORIOUS FOR HIS PHILANDERING!
!!!
SO, EVEN IF YOU TELL PEOPLE THIS WHOLE ENGAGEMENT IS JUST A FARCE, THEY WON'T BELIEVE YOU.

K-CHT
HEH...
HE COULD BE A KOBOLD OR AN OGRE FOR ALL I CARE.
I SIMPLY MUST HAVE MY DAUGHTER MARRIED TO THAT MAN.
HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH...
HEH HEH ...

WELL, IT SERVES HIM RIGHT.
WHY SHOULD I CARE?!!!
OH, HE CAN JUST GO GET MARRIED OR WHATEVER!
CORPSEFIED


THEN,
I GUESS THE SITUATION JUST GOT WORSE, HUH?
NYA
NYA

OH, JOY OF JOYS!!
OH, WHAT A MAGNIFICENT YOUNG MAN THAT LOUIE IS!
HE PUT HIS OWN REPUTATION ON THE LINE IN A RISKY ACT-ALL FOR MY DAUGHTER'S SAKE!!!
I WAS RIGHT TO HAVE PUT MY FAITH IN MYLEE!!

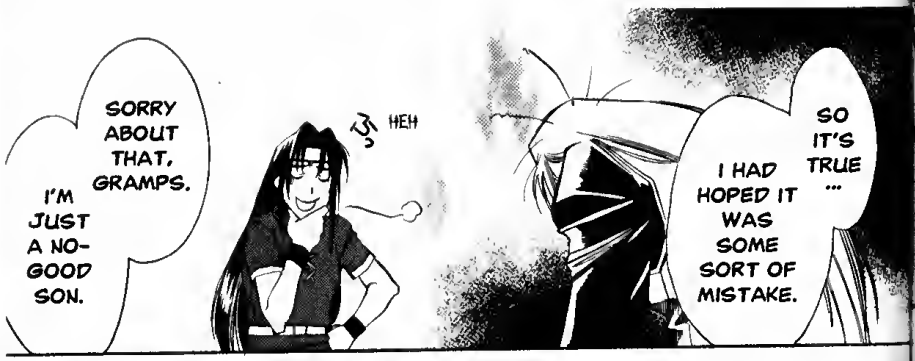
GRIN
THANKS TO YOU, NOW I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO MISGIVINGS ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE BETWEEN MY DAUGHTER AND YOUR HERO. DEAR MELISSA, MAY I SHOW YOU OUT?
UTTER DEFEAT
完敗
AH... SURE.
I BELIEVE THIS CONCLUDES OUR BUSINESS FOR TODAY.

I'M NEVER EVER GOING TO SEE MY FATHER AGAIN, SO...
LOUIE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
NOW THIS IS BOTH OUR PROBLEM!
MURIEL?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!!
DON'T CRY, MURIEL!!
HIC
I'M SO SORRY.
うるせえ!! CAN IT!!
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S REALLY THIS TAIL-CHASER'S FAULT!
I'VE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.

SO IT WAS MORE OF A POLITICAL MARRIAGE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
YEAH,
I DON'T GET IT. THE PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT WAS TO A GUY WHO POSSESSES NOBLE BLOOD, RIGHT?
HIS FOSTER-FATHER IS CARWESS, THE GREATEST SORCERER IN THE KINGDOM.
THE QUESTION IS HOW THAT'D BENEFIT RODRIGO
WELL, THERE WOULD BE ONE ADVAN-TAGE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN HOW COULD MURIEL'S FATHER WANT HER TO MARRY THIS BOZO?
EVEN MY GUILD'S INFORMATION NETWORK... KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT LOUIE'S BIRTH. IT'S A TOTAL MYSTERY.
私ら盗賊ギルドの情報網でも未だナゾなのよね……
そういえばこいつの生い立ちって
NAH, COULDN'T BE.
HERE, YOU DRINK UP TOO!
SHIT, I NEED A DRINK
うんねこの
COULD LOUIE POSSIBLY BE THE BASTARD SON OF SOME NOBLE?

HEY, POPS!!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
BAAAM
VWOOOOR
CREEPY AURA...
HUH?
DON'T TELL ME YOU ALREADY KNOW...
I'VE BEEN DYING TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.
RUMBLE
EHH...
SNAP
AH, GOOD TIMING, LOUIE.

YOU'RE A GOOD KID, MURIEL.
PAT
I'M SURE YOU'D MAKE IT BY ALL RIGHT, EVEN IF YOU DID LEAVE YOUR FAMILY.
AH!
I GOT IT.
HUH?
YOU JUST GAVE ME AN IDEA, MURIEL.
OUR LAST RESORT ...

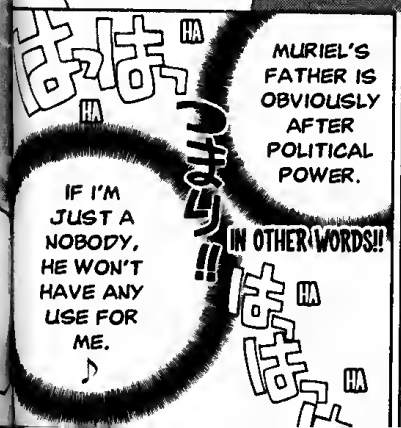

SORRY ABOUT THAT, GRAMPS.
I'M JUST A NO-GOOD SON.
HEH
I HAD HOPED IT WAS SOME SORT OF MISTAKE.
SO IT'S TRUE ...

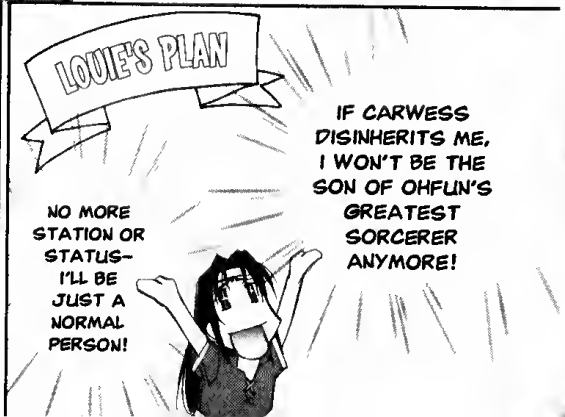
HUH?!
INSTEAD OF ASKING FOR SOME SORT OF APOLOGY, HE DEMANDED THAT YOU MARRY HIS DAUGHTER.
HANSEL CAME BY EARLIER.

SKRSHHHH
OBVIOUSLY YOU MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR STEALING HIS DAUGHTER'S VIRGINITY!!!
AND EVEN THOUGH I'D BE ALL TOO HAPPY TO DISINHERIT YOU,
I SIMPLY COULDN'T DO SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE THING!!

RUMBLE
I HEARD YOU WERE GOING AFTER A GIRL WHO JUST TURNED FOURTEEN...
YOU ...
RUMBLE

WAAAAAUGH
おおおおお
SO PLEASE, GRAMPS!! YOU MUST DISINHERIT ME!
IT'S TRUE!
I'M AN UTTER FAILURE OF A MAN!!!
GRIN
IT'S...

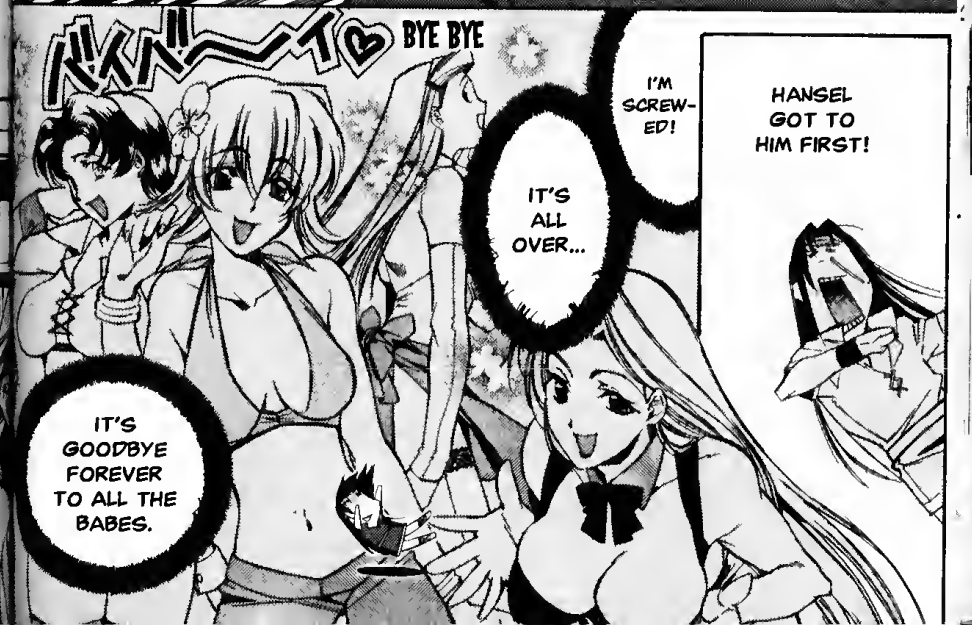

はっはっはっ
HA
HA
MURIEL'S FATHER IS OBVIOUSLY AFTER POLITICAL POWER.
IF I'M JUST A NOBODY, HE WON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR ME.
♪
つまり!!
IN OTHER WORDS!!
はっはっはっ
HA
HA


LOUIE'S PLAN
IF CARWESS DISINHERITS ME, I WON'T BE THE SON OF OHFUN'S GREATEST SORCERER ANYMORE!
NO MORE STATION OR STATUS- I'LL BE JUST A NORMAL PERSON!

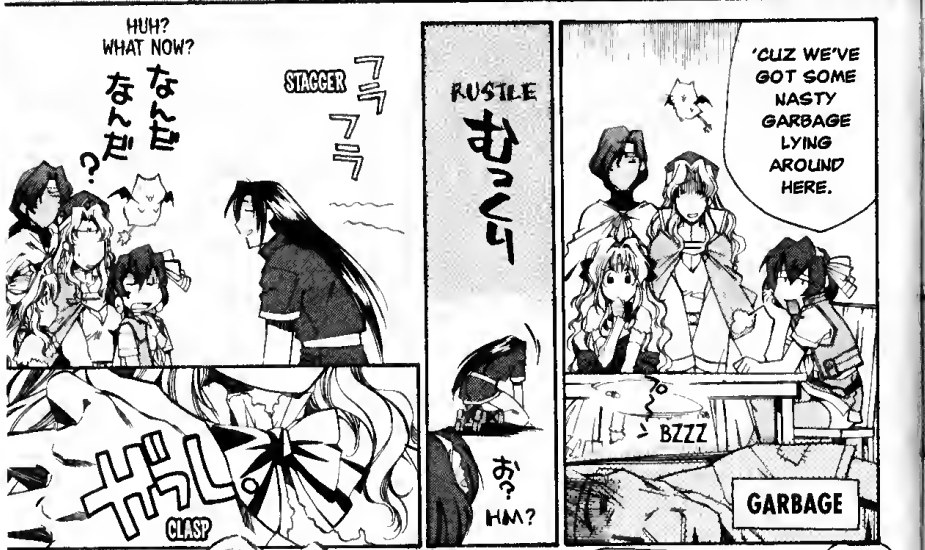
YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR GALLIVANTING WITH WOMEN.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL RESIGN YOURSELF. YOU REALIZE THAT EVEN IF THE WEDDING IS 2 OR 3 YEARS AWAY...
CREAK
AS WELL AS YOUR OTHER ACTIVITIES.

SHOCK

HE CAN'T MEAN GIVE UP ADVENTURING!
I'VE NOTHING MORE TO SAY.
GET OUT.
DAMN
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?


バイバ～イ♡ BYE BYE
IT'S GOODBYE FOREVER TO ALL THE BABES.
IT'S ALL OVER...
I'M SCREWED!
HANSEL GOT TO HIM FIRST!

WHAT DAY DO THEY COLLECT TRASH?
SO, UH...


HUH? WHAT NOW?
なんだ
なんだ?
STAGGER
フラフラ
RUSTLE
むっくり
お?
HM?
'CUZ WE'VE GOT SOME NASTY GARBAGE LYING AROUND HERE.
BZZZ
GARBAGE
がらん
CLASP

予想図
EXPECTATION
MARRYING YOU MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD AFTER ALL.
MURIEL, IN TWO OR THREE MORE YEARS...
E-HEH

WHAT ...?!
I BELIEVE ILA'S FATHER IS ONE OF HANSEL'S BUSINESS RIVALS. I IMAGINE SHE HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE I DID.

DAMN IT!
BY THE WAY...

ILA HASN'T BEEN AROUND LATELY. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

ILA...?!

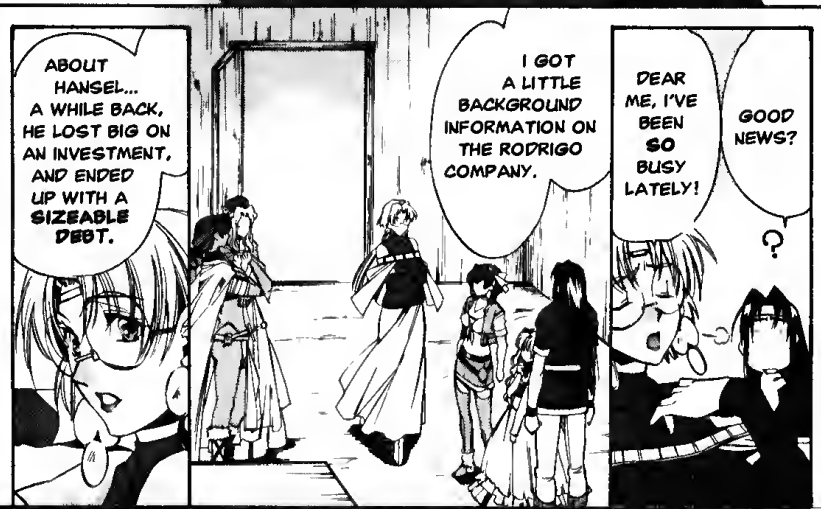
WHAT?!
MERRILL, COULD IT BE?
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH LOUIE?

LOUIE...
MARRYING...
リウイが……
MURIEL! D-DON'T BE SILLY!
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT ME MARRYING HIM?

KASPRACK
DIE, SCUM-BAG!!!
D'OH

GLANCE
……
UM, MERRILL ?
WH-WHAT'S UP?
IDIOT
WE'RE NOT GIVING UP YET!

HEY HEY HEY!
WHAT'S UP, ILA?!
YOU LOOK WELL...
お元気そうで
OH, IT'S LOVELY MISS MAGICAL-ITEM FREAK AGAIN.
HEH HEH ...
I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU ALL!


ABOUT HANSEL... A WHILE BACK, HE LOST BIG ON AN INVESTMENT, AND ENDED UP WITH A SIZEABLE DEBT.
I GOT A LITTLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE RODRIGO COMPANY.
DEAR ME, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY!
GOOD NEWS?
?

GEESH
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!
IT'S... NOT LIKE THAT.

THERE YOU ARE!!
I WAS JUST CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, MURIEL-
I WAS...

HI. THERE!
はぁ～い
LONG TIME, NO SEE! ♪

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS LITTLE MARRIAGE IS OVER.
YOU'RE A FREE MAN, LOUIE.
HUH?
えぇぇぇ?
IF YOU KNOW THAT, WHY NOT TELL THE PALACE GUARDS AND HAVE HIM ARREST-ED?!
GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, MAYBE!!
NO, WE CAN USE THIS INFORMA-TION INSTEAD.
I TOLD HIM IF HE'D CANCEL THE ENGAGE-MENT BETWEEN LOUIE AND MURIEL...
WE'D JUST KEEP QUIET OVER THE WHOLE THING!
まさに一件落着～ってカンジ?
SO THEN IT'S SETTLED?
AND, THE RODRIGO COMPANY, HAVING NO WAY TO PAY BACK ITS DEBTS, WILL BE BOUGHT OUT BY AUZARL!

IN ORDER TO CLEAR THAT DEBT...
HE STARTED TO SELL CERTAIN ILLEGAL ITEMS ON THE BLACK MARKET...
THINGS LIKE, UNICORN'S HORNS, FOR EXAMPLE.
OH MY GOD !!!
BUT ISN'T THAT A CRIM-INAL ACT?!
UNICORNS ARE SACRED IN RAMLIEARTH!!
THAT'S WHY HANSEL WANTED SOME CONNECTION WITH THE SORCERERS.
I GET IT.
ONLY SORCERERS ARE ALLOWED TO OWN STUFF LIKE THAT.
YES.
HANSEL APPAR-ENTLY HAS STOCKED UP QUITE A FEW OF THOSE ITEMS.
WHAT?!
何...?!
AFTER FINDING THAT OUT, I HAPPENED TO END UP...
あはっ♡
TEE-HEE
LAYING CLAIM TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF ♡ THEM!

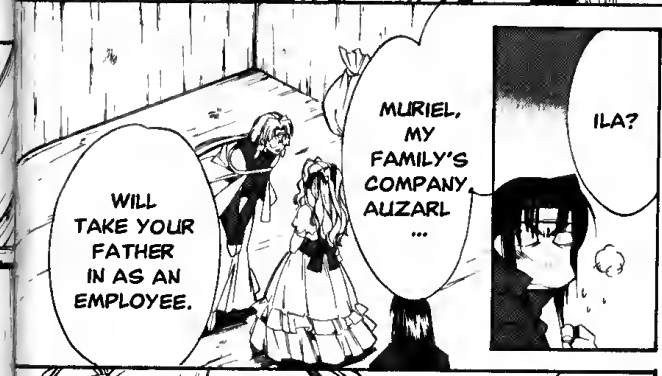
HIC ヒック
HIC ヒック
MY FATHER ...
DRIP
HOW COULD HE DO SUCH A BAD THING?
MURIEL...
I WON'T BE HAPPY UNTIL...
I PAY HIM BACK FOR MURIEL'S TEARS WITH MY FISTS!!!
HANSEL, YOU BASTARD! ハンセルのやろお
WH-WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
YEEARGH, THIS IS PISSIN' ME OFF!!!
USING HIS DAUGHTER TO CLEAN UP HIS OWN MESS... THAT'S PRETTY DAMN LOW!!

THANKS, ILA!! YOU'VE SAVED ME!!!
YOU... YOU'RE WELCOME.
クスッ CHUCKLE
GETTING THAT KIND OF INFO ON THE RODRIGO COMPANY MUST HAVE COST A PRETTY PENNY.
THE RICH SURE ARE SCARY.
STARE
OH, MURIEL ...
はっ GASP

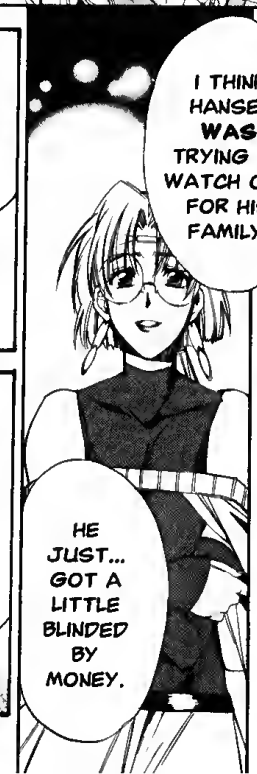
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE FORCED TO MARRY ANYONE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DECIDE YOUR OWN FUTURE.
AND OF COURSE...
YOUR OWN LOVER, TOO.

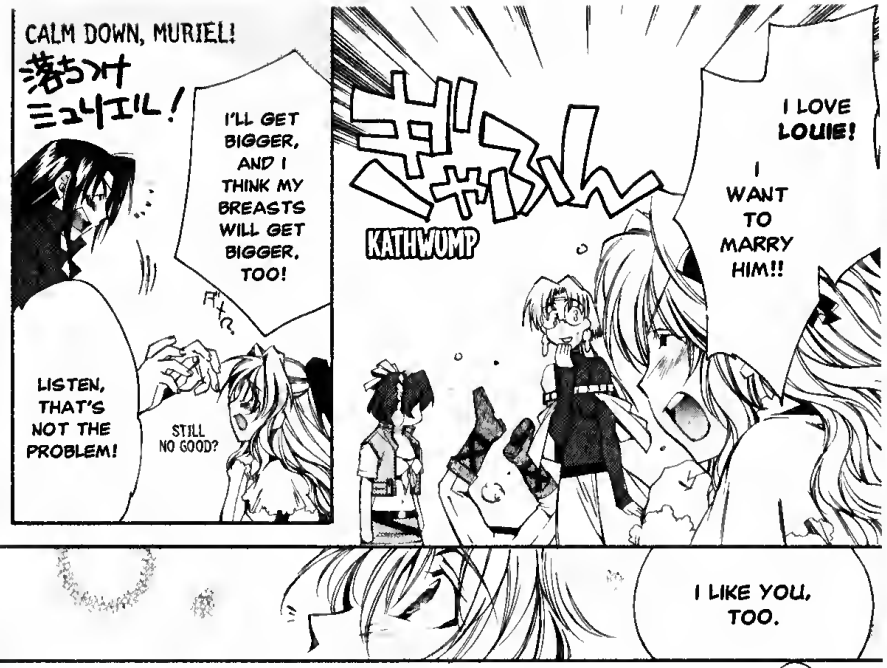
THANK YOU.
AND IF YOU RUN INTO ANY PROBLEMS, WE'LL HELP YA OUT!!!
何か困った事があったらいいか!?
力になるからな
AND ACTUALLY, I...
THANKS, EVERYONE.

SOMEONE WHO TRIES TO SAVE HIS OWN SORRY ASS USING HIS DAUGHTER
AIN'T ANY KIND OF FATHER !!!
VAURGH
OF COURSE, ILA DID SAVE MY ASS, BUT THAT'S DIFFERENT!!
LOUIE...
SNICKER


ILA?
MURIEL, MY FAMILY'S COMPANY, AUZARL ...
WILL TAKE YOUR FATHER IN AS AN EMPLOYEE.

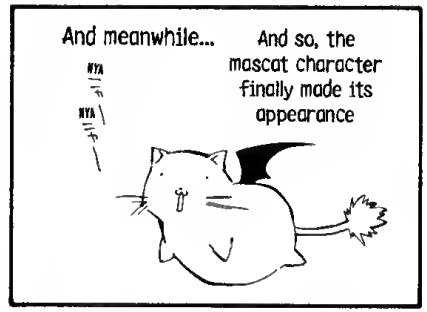
HE TOLD ME THAT FROM NOW ON, HE'S GOING TO "LIVE FOR HIS FAMILY."

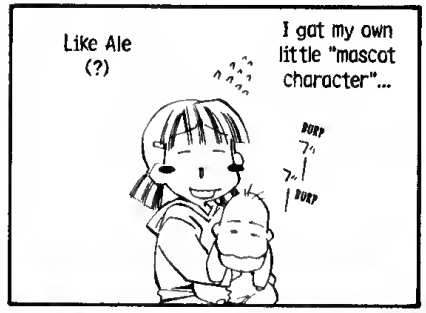

I THINK HANSEL WAS TRYING TO WATCH OUT FOR HIS FAMILY.
HE JUST... GOT A LITTLE BLINDED BY MONEY.

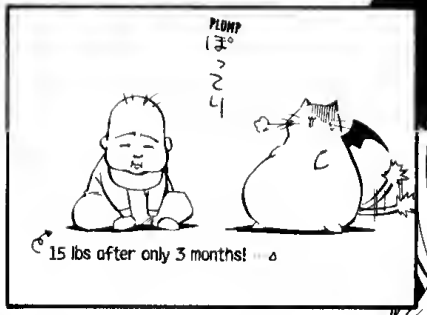

CALM DOWN, MURIEL!
落ちつけミュリエル!
I'LL GET BIGGER, AND I THINK MY BREASTS WILL GET BIGGER, TOO!
LISTEN, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
STILL NO GOOD?
ギュルん
KATHWUMP
I LOVE LOUIE! I WANT TO MARRY HIM!!
I LIKE YOU, TOO.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4

SORRY, I HAD TO TAKE A BREAK FROM LOUIE.







■SPECIAL THANKS■

AYA SASADA SAMA
SAKAE SHINOHARA SAMA
SACHIKO SHIKAYA SAMA
AKIRA AKINO SAMA
ERU KUSANAGI SAMA
KAGETORA SAMA
AKIKO UEDA SAMA
KEI KIMIYA SAMA
DANNA
YOSHIDA SAMA
……AND YOU!

Louie The Rune Soldier, Volume 03

PG. 124

Bastard son

On this page, Louie thinks to himself that Muriel's groom-to-be may be a "nobleman's bastard son." You may have been wondering what gain there would be for Hansel to arrange a political marriage with his daughter and a noble's illegitimate son. Historically in the west, an illegitimate son would most likely not be eligible to inherit his father's estate or title, etc. However, in Japanese history an illegitimate son could succeed his father in station if there were no legitimate heirs present. Case in point would be crown prince Mutsuhito, who became the Emperor Meiji (The Meiji Era, also known as the Meiji Restoration, was from 1868 to 1912, when Japan left the Shogunate and feudal government behind and truly opened itself to the West). He was the son of the Emperor Komei by a lady-in-waiting.

The Emperor Meiji's successor, crown prince Yoshihito (Emperor Taisho), was also born out of wedlock, but as the only surviving male heir, he ascended to the throne. Of course, in the Japanese Court, it was acceptable for an Emperor to have children by ladies in waiting, or consorts, so the concept of legitimacy itself was looked upon differently than it was in Europe.